CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to the Manager, at the Journal Office, 161A, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

DEFECTS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION.

SIR,—The complaint of "A Young Practitioner", that he is not familiar with the commonest diseases, and that this is owing to his having observed diseases in hospitals only, is one very often made. It is also well founded. But the right remedy for this ignorance is not that which "A Young Practitioner" suggests. All that could possibly come of "study with a general practitioner before joining a medical school" would be an unintelligent prescribing of certain mixtures for certain groups of symptoms. Explanation by his teacher would be of necessity made in words having for him no meaning, no sensory representation in his brain; there would be no "thing-pictures" revivable by the terms employed, unless, indeed, the practitioner undertook, in some necessarily imperfect way, the functions of the medical school itself.

The true remedy is hit by your own suggestion in the article upon "Defects of Medical Education", that senior students should be encouraged to attend the outpatient room, and to practise there all they have learned in the wards. At Leeds, we have discouraged the attendance of junior students in the medical out-patient room, believing that nothing but mental confusion could result from early study there; and we have endeavoured to systematise their ward-study in such a way as to make them able to take advantage of the out-patient room as a "final school". to make them able to take advantage of the out-patient room as a man school. The solution of problems in this department is proposed as the last part of the process of their education. In their first term of hospital practice, they are taught cess of their education. In their first term of hospital practice, they are taught how to examine each organ by every possible means, so as to detect any sign of disorder therein; in their next term, they are taught how to discover the probable nature of a disease (diagnosis); and in the third, they are taught more especially than in the two preceding terms the causes of disease and the treatment of them. The student who has followed this course will find very little difficulty in understanding and managing trivial disorders, if his knowledge of anatomy and physiology and of the ordinary causes of disease be tolerably complete. But both as to these matters and as to drug-treatment, the student will have the assistance of his teachers or seniors in the department.

A year or two with a sound medical practitioner after the course above described.

teachers or seniors in the department.

A year or two with a sound medical practitioner after the course above described has been passed through would be highly advantageous. This systematic course realises the designs and recommendations of the Association Subcommittee on Medical Education.—Yours faithfully,

T. CHURTON, M.D.,

Physician to the Leeds Infirmary.

LATENT MIASMA.

SIR,-Tradition tells us that in former times this neighbourhood was infected with ague and other fevers of a malarial nature. Now, however, since the Charnwood Forest Enclosure Act, all the waste places having been inclosed, and by drainage, etc., brought into cultivation, ague has become a thing of the past; and under the Public Health Acts, all other kinds of fever have become almost unknown in this

During the past year, the Charmwood Forest Railway works having been commenced, and a long cutting being carried through what before the system of drainage was carried out was a "waste place", known, I believe, about half a century ago as "Sick Farm" (but now a fertile grass farm). The clay in this cutting is very tenacious and cheesy in character, and is loaded with moisture. From this cutting I have had two cases of quotidian ague of a well marked type, both in men of a mile from it. When the clay was being put on the bank, another case of the same type occurred in a cutting two miles from the one in which the clay was impregnated with decayed animal and vegetable matter.

This being the control of the man had been same type occurred in a cutting two miles from the one in which the clay was impregnated with decayed animal and vegetable matter.

Thinking these facts may be interesting, showing as they do that miasma may be bottled up for half a century by surface-drainage and cultivation, and set free when the subsoil is cut into. I send them for publication.—Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM DONOVAN, L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health.

Whitwick, June 14th, 1882.

Novel Method of Committing Suicide.

Dr. Robert Elliot (Carlisle) writes to us with reference to a case reported in the JOURNAL for May 27th, page 835, in which Sarah Newman, a married woman, aged 38, choked herself with a stocking in the Cork Hospital. He says that the case is novel, but not unique. In Carlisle, seventeen years ago, at Crozier Lodge, Fever Hospital, a similar suicide was committed by a spinster, aged 24, as attested by Dr. P. M. Braidwood, now of Liverpool and Birkenhead, who at the time was house-surgeon to the Cumberland Infirmary, only about eighty yards off, so that the best of aid was promptly obtained. The following extract is from the Carlisle page of the time.

yards off, so that the best of aid was promptly obtained. The following extract is from the Carlisle paper of the time.

"It appeared from the evidence that deceased was brought into the Fever Hospital on Saturday afternoon, ill of fever. No change was observed in her until about 3 A.M. on Monday, when the nurse heard her call out as though she were choking, and saw deceased with her forefingers in her mouth, apparently thrusting something down her throat, whilst something white, like the corner of a pocket-handkerchief, was sticking out of her mouth. The nurse went to take hold of her hands, but, before she could do so, the handkerchief disappeared in deceased's mouth. The nurse called out, and another nurse and a patient came to her assistance. They held down deceased's hands and looked into her mouth, but could see nothing, and in about five minutes more she died. Dr. Braidwood, but could see nothing, and in about five minutes more she died. Dr. Braidwood, from the infirmary, stated that he examined the body, and found the handkerchief tightly wedged in the throat, with about an inch in the mouth. A verdict was returned to the effect that the woman 'died from suffocation, caused by a handkerchief in her throat'."

LATE PREGNANCY.

IE,—On looking over some old papers the other day, I came across the fo llowing in the Oracle, public advertiser, October 19th, 1799. Births: Lately, Mrs. Geary, of Dean's Yard, Westrainster, aged 49, of twins: who, with the mother, are likely to do well. Mr. Geary, the father, is in the eighty-fourth year of his age." This struck me as interesting, on account of the ages of both father and mother.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Kingston-on-Thames.

CARRIER PIGEONS.

IR,—I trust to be able gradually to send birds to all my correspondents who have replied to my letter of last week. Finding it impossible to answer each letter replied to my letter of last week. Finding it impossible to answer each letter individually, will you kindly accord me space for this general acknowledgment of each and all?—Your obedient servant,

George H. R. Dabes, M.D. Shanklin, Isle of Wight, June 27th, 1882.

TAPE-WORM.

SIR,—Would some experienced member kindly suggest something for the following case? A young woman, in fair health and anxious to get married, has been treated at intervals over a period of three years by filix mas in powder and liquid extract, kousso and koussein, ol. terebinth., kamela and pomegranate—and these in the approved fashion, preceded and followed by purgatives. She has been at a hospital, a public dispensary, and under various private practitioners, and all to no avail; so that it would be much to the credit of our profession if something further can be done for her relief. Young respectfully. can be done for her relief. - Yours respectfully,

S. B. (Witheridge) .- Yes; excellent.

SIR,—In my observations on tricycles which appeared in your number of June 10th, I omitted to mention that I will be happy to correspond with any gentleman wishing further information.—I am, yours truly,

Canongate House, Jedburgh, June 10th, 1882.

E. H. B. R.-You had better consult your lawyer.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:-

Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. S. Winter Fisher, Brighton; Mr. Walter Bailey, Winchester; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Dr. Murdoch Browne, Edinburgh; M.R.C.P., Walworth; Money Office; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. J. Ward, Sparkbrook; Dr. Power, Portsea; Mr. Alfred Charlton, Ashford; L., Dublin; Mr. J. C. Steele, London; Member; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Brittan, Taliessin; Mr. G. D. Crowther, Manchester; Mr. Edgar W. Willett, London; Dr. Dabbs, Shanklin; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. R. Richardson, West Rosedale, Yorkshire; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. E. J. Tilt, London; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Mr. Haydon White, Nottingham; Dr. Harkin, Belfast; Mr. W. Alpin, London; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Mr. Alfred Hall, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Miss Robinson, Leeds; Messrs. Street Bros., London; Dr. Francesco Vallardi, Milan; Mr. R. Ellis, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. Wm. E. Dawson, Margate; Dr. Clipson Wray, Skegness; Mr. P. R. Griffith, London; Mr. E. P. Hardey, Hull; Mr. Ed. Law, Sheffield; Mr. J. J. Reynolds, Stoke; Sir C. R. McGregor, Bart., London; Mr. G. Buckston Browne, London; Mr. T. R. Berkett, Eastbourne; Messrs. Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, London; Mr. W. Watson Cheyne, London; Dr. H. D. Littlejohn, Edinburgh; Mr. Lewis Mackenzie, Tiverton; Miss Ellen Willis, Armagh; Mr. Fred. E. Manby, Wolverhampton; Mr. De Berdt Hovell, Clapton; Mr. J. Livy, Bolton; Dr. Maclean, Southampton; Mr. E. W. Forster, Darlington; Mr. H. J. Hargrave, Aberdeen; House-Surgeon, Durham; Dr. J. Mansurgh Palmer, Armagh; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Geo. Johnson, London; Dr. Jacob, Dublin; Dr. J. Johnston, Bolton; Mr. R. F. Benham, London; etc.

### BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

The Medical Digest, or Busy Practitioner's Vade-Mecum: being a Means of Readily Acquiring Information upon the Principal Contributions to Medical Science during the last Thirty-Five Years. By Dr. R. Neale. London: Long. mans, Green, and Co. 1882.

The Medical Man's Handy-Book. Edited by William Shepperson. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

The Student's Guide to Diseases of the Eye. By Edward Nettleship, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

Catechism of Modern Elementary Chemistry; or Solutions of the Questions set at the London University Matriculation Examination, 1844-82. By E. W. Volcksom, F.C.S., Lecturer on Chemistry at Downside College, Bath. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1882.

Animal Intelligence. By George J. Romanes, M.A., F.R.S., Zoological Secretary of the Linnar Society. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1882.

Winters Abroad: Some Information respecting Places visited by the Author on Account of his Health. Intended for the Use of Invalids. By R. H. Otter, M.A. London: John Murray. 1882.

The Physiology and Pathology of the Blood. By Richard Norris, M.D., F.R.S.E. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1882.

On Failure of Brain-Power. By Julius Althaus, M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1882.

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Posological and Therapeutical TABLES. Containing the Doses, Actions, and Uses of Medicines; Index of Diseases, with their Appropriate Remedies; Poisons, with their Symptoms, Antidotes, and Tests, by ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. Second Edition, square 32mo, price 2s. Interleaved 2s. 3d. 1882.

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