THE SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES OF INHALATION.

SIR,—Apropos of Dr. R. J. Lee's remarks on this subject in your JOURNAL of June 24th, will you permit me to state that some years ago, when I was quite a lad, and not, of course, a member of the medical profession, I designed an apparatus for diffusing certain disinfectants under steam-pressure. It occurred to me that, by boiling the solutions under pressure, and thus increasing the boiling point (212° F₂), that would be more effectably mixed quite the atmosphere in the chamber in

bouing the solutions under pressure, and thus increasing the boiling point (212° F.), they would be more effectually mingled with the atmosphere in the chamber in which the apparatus was used than by any other method.

The apparatus, which was constructed after various artistic designs, was made to contain the solution in a closed chamber with a vent-hole of only just sufficient size to allow the steam to escape at such a pressure as would cause both the water and the disinfectant to be equally diffused, as the boiling point of most descriptions of the latter are invariably in excess of that of water. Being acquainted with the theory upon which "Nero's engine" was constructed, it also occurred to me that by balancing a small tube on a pin projecting from the too of the apparatus. the theory upon which "Nero's engine was constructed, it also occurred to the that by balancing a small tube on a pin projecting from the top of the apparatus, the steam after leaving the vent-hole might, in its effort to escape, force its way, with the air, into a small hole in the tube, when the latter would revolve with considerable rapidity, and in doing so would diffuse or spread the steam in a way no other means could effect.

means could effect.

Not being at the time a member of the medical profession, it did not occur to me to direct the attention of the leading medical journals to my contrivance, though many scientific men who saw it pronounced it to be an admirable apparatus for disinfecting sick chambers and the like. As an amusing scientific contrivance, it met with incredible success, thousands of grosses being sold at prices varying from sixpence to half a guinea, according to the quality and beauty of the design. I may add that, besides various other large areas, the Agricultural Hall at Islington has been disinfected and perfumed in this manner, namely, when the Messrs. Sanger produced their equestrian and other entertainments—a fact which was noticed in the Times, Daily Telegraph, Standard, and other well known papers.

—I am, sir, yours obediently,

R. FITZROY BENHAM, M.R.C.S.

—I am, sir, yours obediently,

CLINICAL THERMOMETERS.

SIR,—An "Old Member" cannot do better than get one of Casella's "standard hospital clinical thermometers". It is only 4s. fd. post free, and one of the very best I have had. A good work for non-medical use on diseases of children is Dr. Chavasse's, published by Churchill.—I am, yours truly,

Harward's Heath. July 18th, 1882.

A. H. NEWTH, M.D.

REMOVAL OF TUMOUR OF JAWS.

SIR,—In the report on the proceedings of the last general meeting of the Staffordshire Branch, a mistake has unwittingly been made by myself in reporting the case of a woman operated upon for the removal of a tumour extensively occupying the front of the upper jaws. It is said that she "returned to her home in the United States". It should have said she left the hospital to return to her home in a few

weeks, having promised to show herself frequently before her departure.

This correction is important, as at a recent visit a slight return of the disease required her re-admission for its removal.—Yours very faithfully,

VINCENT JACKSON.

Waterloo Road South, Wolverhampton, July 10th, 1882.

TRICYCLE AND BICYCLE EXERCISE.

"C. R." suggests that it would be very interesting to many of us if our correspondents, who are discussing the use of tricycles in country practice, would give their experience as to the sanitary or therapeutical value of such machines. He believes that tricycle-riding is more exhilarating than walking, but is far inferior to horse-exercise. It puts too great a strain on the lower limbs. Does it produce any other evils, or compensating advantages? Bicycle-riding seems to exercise the arms and trunk, as well as the legs; but the difficulty and danger attending the learning and practice of this machine will always stand in the way of its use as a mere therapeutical agent. as a mere therapeutical agent.

as a mere therapeutical agent.

Sir,—Allow me to formulate the following propositions in reference to the expenditure of force in tricycles as compared with walking, my calculations having reference to a man weighing 160 pounds and a tricycle weighing 90 pounds.

1. The expenditure of power in walking consists mainly in lifting the body about an inch at each step; this will amount to 1,877 foot-pounds per minute when walking four miles an hour and stepping thirty inches.

2. The same energy exerted on the tricycle would result in a traction-force of 3.5 pounds at six miles an hour. On any surface, therefore, on which the tricycle would run with a traction-force of 3.5 pounds, walking at four miles an hour and riding at six miles an hour would require the same expenditure of energy.

3. Given, therefore, the force required to draw a tricycle and its load along any description of level road, it is a question of proportion to determine the relation between the power required to propel it and the energy required for walking. The drawing-force can be determined by attaching the hook of a spring-balance to the tricycle, and noting the number of pounds the balance registers when the loaded tricycle is drawn by it.

4. In ascending an incline of 1 in 70, the additional power required on foot

tricycle is drawn by it.

4. In ascending an incline of r in 70, the additional power required on foot amounts to 800 foot-pounds; on a tricycle, it is 1,250 foot-pounds, supposing the speed in both cases to be four miles an hour. On a grade of r in 35, it would of course be 1,600 foot-pounds in the one case, and 2,500 foot-pounds in the other, at once making manifest the loss of power on hilly roads.

5. The present arrangement of tricycles is fundamentally wrong. The driver sits and exerts force mainly by the extensors of the thighs. He ought to stand and throw the weight of his body alternately on each crank by a motion precisely similar to walking. There is no question that, in the action of walking, power is generated with less fatigue than in any other voluntary movement, and whoever adapts the walking motion to driving the tricycle will have approached very near to the ideal which is "not for an age, but for all time".—Yours, etc.,

Parsonstown.

FASTING GIRLS. to the ideal was

FASTING GIRLS.

FASTING GIRLS.

SIR,—A certain superstition still lingers around this class of case, and a fictitious interest is excited as to the length of time that such patients live on jellies, sweets, cinders, and all descriptions of trash. A morbid anorexia is at the root of all such cases; and if they were steadily treated by nutrient enemata given three times a day, a certain cure would be effected in a longer or shorter time, and several lives saved which might eventually prove to be valuable. Almost all case are more or less connected with neurosis in some form. In that recorded by Dr. McNeill of Holm, Orkney, in the JOURNAL for June 24th, fright seems to have been the exciting cause, but the therapeutic indications remain the same: to nourish the body, and support the strength until the disease passes by, and is thus superseded.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

D. DE BERDT HOVELL.

Five Houses, Clapton Middlesex June 24th, 1892.

Homes for Epileptics.

HOMES FOR EPILEPTICS.

SIR,—I should be obliged if any of your numerous readers could tell me of a home or institution (except the National Hospital for Epilepsy) where a young woman slightly afflicted with epilepsy could be received free, or upon a small weekly pay ment.—Yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

IR,—With reference to the letter of "Member", which appeared in the JOURNAL of the 8th instant, I beg leave to state that a good private home can be obtained in Aberdeen.—I remain, sir, yours very faithfully, 55, Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge, July 10th, 1882.

ERRATUM.—By a typographical error in the JOURNAL of June 24th, page 949, column 2, last paragraph, small-pox and fevers were stated to be prevalent in "Ireland" instead of "Iceland".

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

Mr. Wm. Smith, Eccles; Dr. W. Murrell, London; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. F. Dodgson, Cockermouth; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. Groves, Carisbrook, Isle of Wight; Mr. E. P. Hardey, Hull; Dr. Cresswell Baber, Brighton; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. R. W. Barrow, Liver pool; Dr. J. W. Cousins, Portsmouth; Dr. J. W. Taylor, Scarborough; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. B. Yeo, London; Dr. W. R. Cossham, Cirencester; Dr. Simon Fitch, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Dr. W. Lomas, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. L. M. Marshall, Nottingham; Mr. Nelson C. Dobson, Bristol; Messrs. Webster and Brother, Liverpool; Dr. Herman, London; Mr. W. H. Cousin, London; Dr. Fernie, Barnstaple; Mr. Bennett May, Birmingham; The Secretary of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest; Mr. Geo. C. Rowland, Richmond; Mr. David Davies, Bristol; Dr. Ogston, Aberdeen; Mr. F. T. Paul, Liverpool; Dr. H. Snow, London; Mr. R. Stear, Kirkintilloch; Dr. B. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. A. Dempsey, Belfast; Mr. G. Hanbury, London; Mr. W. R. Dovey, London; Mr. J. G. Waters, Wick; Mr. C. Young, Bridgewater; Mr. H. N. Wallice, Leven; Mr. W. Whitehead, Manchester; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. McKane, Byers Green; Dr. Cole, Bath; Dr. B. Anningson, Cambridge; Mr. R. H. B. Wickham, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. Litton Forbes, London; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. F. H. Hedges, Leicester; Dr. W. J. Gray, London; Mr. G. R. Moore, Dursley; Dr. A. H. Newth, Hayward's Heath; Mr. T. Sympson, Lincoln; Mr. J. E. Ingpen, London; Dr. R. Kirkwood, Largs by Greenock; Mr. J. P. Graven, Waterford; Mr. J. D. Mortimer, London; Mr. B. F. Smallman, Spalding; Mr. Alexander Stewart, Bathgate; Mr. W. Allard, Tewkesbury; Dr. G. A. Turner, Glasgow; Dr. W. Kerr, Melksham; Dr. D. Allen Charles, Bellaghy, Londonderry; Dr. W. N. Thurfield, Shrewsbury; Dr. David Drummond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. J. E. Adams, London; Mr. J. Oswell Bury, Wrexham; The Secretary of Charing Cross Hospital; Mr. J. Clarke, Leicester; Mr. J. Knight, Carlton; Dr. W. H. Barlow, Manchester; Mr. G. H. Wilson, Ventnor; Dr. J. C. Steele, London; Mr. L. Mackenzie, Tiverton; Mr. W. J. S. Corfield, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Legal Medicine. Part I. By Charles Meymott Tidy, M.B., F.C.S. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1882.

A Treatise on Surgery, its Principles and Practice. By T. Holmes, M.A.Cantab., Surgeon to St. George's Hospital. Third Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1882.

Diseases of the Ear. By George P. Field, M.R.C.S. Third Edition. London: Henry Renshaw. 1882.

Manual for the Physiological Laboratory. By Vincent Harris, M.D., and D'Arcy Power, M.A. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1882.

Transactions of the American Gynæcological Society. Volume VI, for the year 1881. Philadelphia: Henry C. Leas, Son, and Co. 1882.

Diseases of Women, including their Pathology, Causation, Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment: a Manual for Students and Practitioners. By Arthur W. Edis, M.D.Lond., F.R.C.P. Second Edition. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

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