THE STAFF OF COTTAGE HOSPITALS.

Ser.—I shall be glad of your opinion on the following case. Till recently, the staff of a cottage-hospital has consisted of one consulting surgeon, two visiting surgeons, and two assistant-surgeons. The senior visiting surgeon has resigned; and, to fill the vacancy, the Committee have decided that both assistant-surgeons shall to fill the vacancy, the Committee have decided that doth assistant-surgeons shain be appointed visiting surgeons. Since by this arrangement the senior surgeon's privileges will be one-third less than formerly, might be reasonably expect to have the privilege continued to him of taking in patients for two weeks out of a month, as formerly (thus leaving but two weeks to be divided between the other two surgeons), or would this course be to make an invidious distinction between those who should be on an equal footing?—Yours faithfully,

W. R. C.

*, * The system of appointing the medical staff appears to be faulty; and in the case in point, it would seem to be a very objectionable proceeding to give one of the staff so much advantage over the others. The precedent would be a bad one, and might lead to future difficulties.

SIR,—I will feel greatly obliged if you, or any of your correspondents, can tell me if there exist any private schools for the training of boys of very weak mind, though not absolutely idiotic.—Yours truly,

THE CAUSE OF ACNE.

Sir.—In common with your correspondent "M.D." (July 22nd), I have suffered, and do still, from acne, and it is certainly not due to the cause mentioned by Dr. Wray in my case. In the vast majority of the cases I have come across in practice, it has been hereditary, and in a large proportion of them I can unhesitatingly assert it was not due to masturbation. I consider that Dr. Wray's attempt to brand (on insufficient grounds) a large number of his fellow men as "masturbators" is unjustifiable, not to say cruel.—You obedient servant,

A REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

Sir,—Without going into the question whether or not masturbation and acne stand in the relationship of cause and effect to one another, I should like to stand in the relationship of cause and effect to one another, I should like to record my humble testimony to this fact in my experience: that, where phimosis and acne co-exist, the surgical relief of the phimosis has a marked effect on the condition of the acne; and, where it does not exist, I am always scrupulously careful to insist upon thorough daily and nightly washing of the glans penis with soap and water, believing, as I do, that local penile irritation can generally be evolved in question and answer between doctor and patient in these cases. Indeed when one comes to compiler how two boxs are taught to realise as Pro-Indeed, when one comes to consider how few boys are taught to realise, as Professor Partridge used to say, "that the penis should be washed at least as often as the face", one cannot wonder that acne, if it really has, as it seems to have, a very close relationship to a condition of sebaceous irritation, which might reasonably lead to masturbation, should not even be more frequent and less curable than it is. I believe myself that there are few cases of acne which would not yield to (t) attention to the cleanliness of the generative organs, including the operation for phimosis, if needed; (2) absolute abstention from all stimulants; and (3) general, and perfect, and regular bodily cleanliness.—Your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. R. DABBS, M.D.

Highfields, Shanklin, Isle of Wight, July 24th, 1882.

Sir.,—In reply to "A Junior Member" in the Journal for July 8th, I would advise him to get Dr. Barker's book on *The Management of Children in Health and Nickness*, published by Hardwicke, 192, Piccadilly, W.—I am, etc.,

An Old Member.

SIR.—Referring to Dr. Wallace's letter on Tricycle Exercise, in the JOURNAL of July 22nd, I wish to point out that the indication he suggests is fulfilled in the most perfect manner by the "Humber" tricycle; and with the result of wonderful power and facility of propulsion. The treadles being directly under the saddle, the full weight of the body and the full muscular power can be exerted without any loss, and there is no strain anywhere. The motion is as nearly as possibly conceivable the same as that of walking.—I am, sir, yours truly,

G. A. K.

Ser,—As both your correspondents on this subject, in the Journal for July 22nd, pointed out, the present arrangement of tricycles is fundamentally wrong. The bicycle action is immensely superior as a therapeutical agent, the only objection to it being the dangers involved in the height and unstable equilibrium of the ordinary machine. These dangers have been obviated in one or two recent inventions, notably in what is called the "Facile Safety Bicycle". I can confidently recommend this little machine to my professional brethren in country practices, as combining all the therapeutical advantages of the ordinary bicycle, with the ease and safety of the tricycle.—Yours, etc.,

M.B.

PAY HOSPITALS.

PAY HOSPITALS.

L.R.C.P.Ed.—The following are the three most representative pay hospitals in London. A. Fitzroy House, 16, Fitzroy Square, W. The Home Hospitals Association's Institution, where the payments range from three guineas per week, which terms include everything except stimulants and medical attendance.

S. St. Thomas's Home, in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital, Albert Embanks ment, S.E. Charges from £2 16s. per week, which sum includes the attendance of the resident medical officer. c. Bolingbroke House, in connection with the Battersea Provident Dispensary, where the terms are inclusive, and where patients pay from ten shillings a week, according to their means. We imagine that such a case as "L.R.C.P." mentions would be admitted by the authorities of either of the above nay hospitals, at the minimum rate of payment. inasmuch as it would entail above pay hospitals, at the minimum rate of payment, inasmuch as it would entail a minimum of trouble and expense.

TAPE-WORM.

TAPE-WORM.

IR,—Allow me to express my belief that the male shield fern properly administered will expel not only the segments but also the head of the tape-worm. With due respect to high authority, I would submit that the adult dose of the Pharmacopæia liquid extract, as an efficient vermicide in cases of tænia, is not, as laid down in the British Pharmacopæia, from fifteen to thirty minims; nor, as usually administered to soldiers, one drachm; nor even, as Squire and others allow, eighty or ninety minims—but two drachms. The mode of administration should be as follows: A full mid-day meal may be eaten, and a little bread with tea at 5 P.M. At 10 or 11 P.M., a binder is to be applied to steady the stomach; and on lying down in bed, the following is to be taken. (Neither prolonged fasting nor filling the big bowel with fluid seem necessary.) & Extractificits liquoræ 5ij; spiritus chloroform Illxxy; pulveris acaciæ gr. xx; aquam ad 3ij. M. In the morning, half an ounce of turpentine beaten up with the yolk of an egg should follow. The above large dose of the male shield fern is occasionally vomited, but I have failed

to discover any deleterious effect contraindicating its use. When vomiting happens, which is rare, on the following evening the same quantity should be taken in two doses at half an hour's interval. The half an ounce of turpentine is more liable, doses at half an hour's interval. The nail an ounce of turperture is more made, especially in the tropics, to produce irritant symptoms. If active exercise be taken under a tropical sun after this dose, strangury follows, which there indicates the propriety of rest to limit perspiration and prevent concentration of urine, and the drinking of bland fluids. A vermicidal effect being desired, surely one large dose of a remedy is more certain than several small ones.—I am, yours obediently,

FORBES DICK, M.D., Surgeon-Major A.M.D. Colchester, July 12th, 1882.

Errata.—In the Journal of July 22nd, at page 135, column 1, line 17 from bottom, for "from", read "of"; column 2, line 20, for "sac", read "sore"; line 21, for "one drachm", read "one scruple".

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