

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.

#### ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Sir,—The following letter has been received by me in answer to a question and application in reference to the position of Queen's University graduates in the new Royal University of Ireland.

"Royal University, August 10th, 1882.  
"Sir,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant. With reference to your question whether graduates of the late Queen's become graduates of this University, we can only quote the words of the Act of Parliament 42 and 43 Vict., c. 65, s. 11: 'All persons who at the time of the dissolution of the Queen's University are graduates of the Queen's University shall forthwith become graduates of the University constituted under the provisions of the charter mentioned in this Act with corresponding degrees.' That section has conferred upon all graduates of the late University, degrees in this University corresponding to those they held in the Queen's University. We believe that, according to the opinion of the English law officers, the proper mode in which the medical graduates of the Queen's University shall now appear upon the *Medical Register* would be somewhat as follows: 1875. Jan. 19th. — Name, — Address, — M.D. 1873, Royal University of Ireland; with a note indicating either to each name, or generally to all, marked, say, with an asterisk, that degrees of the Royal University dated prior to February 3rd, 1882, were obtained in the late Queen's University in Ireland. We do not think our Senate would confer the degree M.D. upon a person who has the degree of an earlier date; but, if you desire to make any formal application on the subject, we will bring before the next meeting any letter you may address to the Senate on the subject.—Yours faithfully, J. C. MEREDITH, D. B. DUNNE, Secretaries."

As the Legislature evidently intended that Queen's University graduates should be *bonâ fide* graduates of the new University, it is of importance that they should be so in a formal and legal manner, and not in the haphazard and ambiguous way indicated by the secretaries of the University in this letter. It is difficult to see how anyone can truthfully put M.D. Royal, 1873, or as the case may be, as the University was not then in existence. It would be more in accordance with fact to leave the entries as they are at present in the *Register* (for the Queen's was, at the time of the dates, vigorous and flourishing), than to attach a date to an institution, which would imply an age and prestige which it does not yet possess. It seems to me that Queen's University graduates will be left in the unenviable position of those who trust to two stools, unless they bestir themselves and take action quickly and in concert; and I would suggest to them that every medical graduate should send in a formal application to the Senate of the Royal University, as soon as possible, asking that the degree be conferred on him in a *bonâ fide* and formal manner, as was clearly contemplated in the Act. This would only be right and just, and the very least that ought to be done, when the gross and unprecedented injustice inflicted on Queen's University graduates in taking away their Alma Mater is considered. Let this be done at once by all the graduates; and, if they are unsuccessful, further action can afterwards be determined upon. It is a subject which the Queen's University Graduates' Association of London (whose president, I believe, is Sir Wm. Mac Cormac) might very well take up.—I am, yours, J. WILSON HAMILL.

#### THE BACILLUS MALARIE.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers inform me whether it is possible to detect the bacillus malarie in drinking water? and, if so, how I should set about the examination of a sample of water supposed to have given rise to malarial fever?—I am, sir, your obedient servant, SALUT PUBLIQUE.

\* \* The very existence of the bacillus malarie is doubtful; and it is impossible as yet to detect it in drinking-water.

#### SUGGESTIONS REGARDING EXCRETA.

Sir,—It is a marvellous thing to me that, in these days of economy at the War Office, some official has not managed to render ways and means for the utilisation of all faecal matters good for the remunerative list. They are sparing enough as regards the "goings in" of the soldier; they should look after the outgoings. A species of refinement has crept into barracks under the head of "sanitary measures" in the shape of urinals and water-closets. These, it has been forgotten, require an abundant water-supply, which, in a great many quarters, cannot be had; consequently, the drains are frequently choked. Some years ago, I recollect making a rough calculation at Windsor cavalry barracks of the quantity of hay (chiefly hay-bands) of which food the horses were daily deprived (all of which, perhaps three hundred and fifty wisps, found their way into the drains). Why cannot some intelligent engineer, of an agricultural turn of mind, recommend some improvement on the old privy? For instance, steps may be raised to nearly the top of the boundary wall of a barrack to "a rear", constructed so as to allow wheels to be run under the tank for its removal daily. Many farmers would be glad to contract for this manure, and willingly supply earth and lime for mixing with the contents. Besides, in the urine, there is a still larger percentage of remunerative substance which at present is also lost.

With regard to hospitals for infectious diseases, I contend that steps should be taken for the compulsory and complete disinfection of all excreta before their entrance into the main sewers (or, if possible, the entire destruction), as I feel convinced that these excreta passing into drains exude effluvia of an infectious nature along the drains; and no one can tell along which ramification disease may break out, but most probably where there is the greatest heat generated to draw it; and as a great many houses, I am sorry to say, have the waste-pipes of their cisterns neatly conveyed into the nearest drain, so the foul air easily floats on, and is absorbed by the water, and we are astonished at even typhoid appearing.—Yours faithfully, COSMO LOGIE, M.D., late Royal Horse Guards.

Sandgate, Kent, August 14th, 1882.

#### STIMULANTS IN NEURASTHENIC DISEASE.

Sir,—I observe that, at a temperance meeting held at Worcester, on Wednesday, August 9th, Dr. Martin quoted me as having discarded the use of wine and all stimulants in the treatment of the cases of neurasthenic disease on which I opened a discussion. Will you allow me to say that this is quite a mistake? I allow my patients wine whenever it seems to me likely to suit his individual case.—I am, etc., W. S. PLAYFAIR.

31, George Street, Hanover Square, August 11th.

#### UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.

Sir,—As you are ever ready to expose unprofessional conduct, and whatever tends to degrade the medical profession, I think the following case worth mentioning in your columns.

During the month of May, I undertook to act as *locum tenens* in a village in North Britain for a fortnight, in the absence of the principal. I was the only medical man in the village; and, in the course of my work, I was called in one evening to see a young man who, early in the day, at his work, had suddenly ruptured himself. I found a scrotal hernia, with urgent symptoms. I gave the taxis a full and patient trial, but failed to make any impression upon the tumour. I then proposed to call in the aid of a medical friend from an adjoining village, and operate if, on giving chloroform, I found the hernia still irreducible. The people, however, with whom the young man lodged, said they preferred to get from the same village another medical man, who was the attendant on the patient's mother. I, of course, raised no objection, but said I would be willing to consult with him. Before going to bed, I again called, and found that the medical man had not yet arrived. I left word for the people to call me if they wished me in consultation. I was never called, but heard afterwards that Dr. X. had come and taken up the case, and called in a medical friend of his own to assist him in the case. This was unprofessional and ungentlemanly enough. But hear the sequel. I was told from some inquiries I made that Dr. X. preferred the expectant plan, and was using cold water bandages only. On the return of my medical friend, I left the village in due course, but I have just now heard the final result. The strangulated portion of bowel became gangrenous, and sloughed out, and the patient finally died during the month of July. A more favourable case for operation could scarcely have been got, as the patient was a robust young man, apparently in the best of general health.

Such conduct as this will, I am certain, receive the condemnation of all honourable men.—I am, yours very truly, W. JOHNSON, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Ed.

#### COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Mason Science College: Calendar for the Session 1882-1883. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers. 1882.  
Manual of Gynaecology. By D. Berry Hart, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., and A. H. Barbour, M.A. Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart. 1882.  
A Rational Materialistic Definition of Insanity and Imbecility, with the Medical Jurisprudence of Legal Criminality; founded upon Physiological, Psychological, and Clinical Observations. By Henry Howard, M.R.C.S.Eng. Montreal: Dawson Bros. 1882.  
The Concepts and Theories of Modern Physics. By J. B. Stalls. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1882.  
Chapters in the History of the Insane of the British Isles. By Daniel Hack Tuke M.D., F.R.C.P. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1882.  
Human Parasites: a Manual of Reference to all the known Species of Entozoa and Ectozoa which (excluding the Microphytic, Coniferoid, and simple Sarcoid Organisms) are found infesting Man. By T. Spencer Cobbold, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1882.

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