

laundryman) was going his rounds one morning from house to house—which were few and far between, with tracts of uncultivated land intervening. As he trudged along, he spied a scaly anteater, manis, or pangolin, and ran it down. The animal, intercepted from its burrow, rolled itself up into a ball, as is wont when irritated or overtaken—an action not unlike that of the common hedgehog when placed under similar circumstances. Pleased with the capture (for the flesh is esteemed a delicacy in that part of the country), he laid it, coiled as it was, on the bundle of soiled clothes he was carrying strapped across his shoulders. He had not proceeded far ere the manis unwound itself, and the man, apprehensive of losing his prize, seized it. Unfortunately for him, it once more rolled itself up, but this time circling his neck. To anyone acquainted with the habits of these creatures, their great muscular strength, and the almost utter impossibility of uncoiling them by sheer force, the event must be obvious: being hastened, no doubt, by the instinctive efforts of the asphyxiated man to free himself.

Dr. Ogston, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and Medical Logic, Aberdeen University, considers this a singular addition to the few known cases of accidental strangulation.—I am, sir, yours faithfully, PHILIP S. BRITO, M.B., M.C.

64, Dee Street, Aberdeen.

#### EXTERNAL USE OF IODINE IN ERYSPELAS.

SIR.—In the JOURNAL for August 26th, p. 398, are three subjects in which a simple reference to myself would have saved both you and the writers trouble. Regarding the use of iodine as an external application in eryspelas, Section 43:5 shows that it was highly spoken of in 1852. The "Medical Officer of Health" will find most, if not all, he desires to know on reference to Section 209:3; while "Hospital Surgeon" will obtain a fund of information regarding the trephine and its antiquity in Section 1684:1-3.—Yours faithfully, THE MEDICAL DIGEST.

SIR.—I am somewhat surprised at the idea of the local application of tincture of iodine in cases of either idiopathic or traumatic eryspelas being considered a novelty. I used it in 1851, and in numerous cases when with the 3rd Dragoon Guards; also in Africa, India, England, and Ireland, and invariably with success.—Truly yours, R. M. ALLEN, F.R.C.S., Deputy Surgeon-General.

Welbourn Hall, Grantham, August 30th, 1882.

SIR.—When I wrote my letter of July 22nd, I was fully under the impression that I had made a valuable discovery in the treatment of eryspelas. I did not write it without first consulting several of my medical friends, and every author I could lay my hands upon; none of my friends had ever heard of the iodine treatment, and in only two works was it named. Mr. Holmes, in his work, says it was to be used diluted with water, but with doubtful effect. Bryant simply says that "Mr. Norris thought highly of the free application of the tincture of iodine." This is all. When and where Mr. Norris made his remarks, I was some time in finding out; at last, through Braithwaite's *Retrospect* (vol. xxvii, page 104, 1853), I found an epitome of Mr. Norris's paper, which was published in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, vol. v for 1852, page 590. In this paper, Mr. Norris fully describes the wonderful action of iodine, not only in eryspelas, but also in puerperal peritonitis. I was very glad to see that Mr. Norris had written the note which appeared in your number for September 2nd. Now, as the use of iodine in eryspelas has been lost sight of by the older members, and is not known to the juniors, if Mr. Norris would reprint his paper, giving the results of his thirty years' experience of its use and of its antisепtic powers, etc., it would be a valuable contribution, though dispelling my dream of being the originator of an useful remedy.

I must take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Hutchinson of Scarborough for his courteous letter of the 26th ultimo.—I am, sir, yours truly, C. N. SPINKS.

Warrington, September 5th, 1882.

#### SYPHILIS: AN OPINION WANTED.

SIR.—I was consulted, a few days ago, by a gentleman, and should be greatly obliged if a more experienced member of our profession than myself would give an opinion on the case.

My patient is twenty-eight years of age, and for two years studied for the medical profession, giving it up after that for family reasons. Whilst attending a London hospital eight years ago, he contracted syphilis. He had a true Hunterian chancre, followed by secondary symptoms. These latter were not severe—a coppery rash on the body, a few sores in the mouth and on the tongue, but no sore-throat; the hair came out. He never took mercury, and lost all signs of the complaint in eighteen months; and since then has led a fairly steady life.

Three or four months ago, he became engaged to a young lady, and is to be married in the spring of next year. Unfortunately, during the last six weeks, three or four small patches of psoriasis have shown themselves on the inner side of the thigh, elbow, and axilla. I have examined him carefully, and find him a well developed and apparently healthy young man, except for the patches I have mentioned, and a slight enlargement and hardness of the glands in the groin and neck.

The question he asks is this: Are the patches of psoriasis indications that he is still constitutionally syphilitic; in which case, ought he to marry? In my opinion, they are indications of the disease. Such being the case, ought he to undergo a course of mercurial treatment? and, if so, what form of administration is advisable?

If any member experienced in the treatment of syphilis will kindly give an opinion on this case, he will greatly oblige.

A JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION AND ASSOCIATION.

#### A REMARKABLE DOOR-PLATE.

SIR.—I observe in your issue of August 10th, that Mr. C. H. Dowson, of Kingston Villa, Tyndall's Park, Bristol, has been good enough to address you in reference to me. Surely I ought to feel exceedingly obliged to him for thus affording me so much professional publicity, especially as we reside only about one hundred yards from each other, and are both members "of the Bristol Branch". How much time and trouble he might have saved himself—for he cannot plead the excuse of another "Member of the Bristol Branch", viz, that he has "no personal knowledge of" me—if he had only hit upon the happy idea of either giving me a friendly call, or sending in a private letter; by such means, he could have had the desired information fully a month ago.

I now perceive that it is *he* (rather than my previous assailant, though possibly the two may be in league, if not identical, with each other) who would like to be "enlightened"; but he has somewhat frustrated his object by preferring "to make no comment at present". I fear it might prove to be a tedious undertaking if I were to "endeavour to enlighten him generally", seeing that he is quite unable, so far, either to describe or copy accurately, for both door and freestone angles, engraving and printing, would appear to be equally insurmountable to him.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN BROOM, M.D., etc.

St. Paul's Road, Clifton, August 31st, 1882.

#### MIDWIFERY ENGAGEMENTS.

SIR.—Early in the month of May last, a Mrs. X. called and engaged me to attend her in her approaching confinement, which she expected would be about July 4th. In the meantime, my partner attends Mr. X. and his servant, the fees for which were paid. On July 29th, I received the following letter:

(Copy.)—"Sir,—Kindly cross Mrs. X.'s name off your list; and oblige, yours truly, R. X."

Now, neither my partner nor myself can assign any reason or my receiving such a note. The question is, Can I make Mr. X. pay me the midwifery fee, £2 2s., by taking out a summons against him in the court? An answer will oblige, R.

P.S.—I may add that, on receipt of the note from Mr. X., I wrote to him for an explanation, but he has taken no notice of my letter.

#### DIFFICULT LABOUR.

SIR.—I would venture to suggest that, had Mr. Olpherts made use of the cephalotribe after perforating, instead of the long forceps, in his case reported in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 20th, he would undoubtedly have delivered with less danger and suffering to his patient, and certainly with greater ease and comfort to himself.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

J. FRENCH BLAKE, M.B., M.A.  
1, Prince's Street, S.W., September 2nd, 1882.

#### ERRATA.

THE following corrections require to be made in the article "Changes in the Medical Schools", at page 495 of last week's number. In the paragraph on St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at the end, for "Mr. Baker", read "Mr. Bullar".—In the paragraph on Guy's Hospital, line 2, for "Ophthalmic Surgeon", read "Assistant-Surgeon". In line 3, after "Ophthalmic Surgeon", insert, "and has been appointed Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon". In line 7, for "associated", read "succeeded". In the last line, for "Mr. Jacobson", read "Dr. Hilton Fagge"; and add, "Mr. Symonds gives demonstrations in Morbid Histology in place of Mr. Jacobson".—In the paragraph on the London Hospital, line 1, for "E. W. Mansell Moullin", read "Dr. C. W. Mansell Moullin". In line 3, after "Aveling", insert "The number of surgeons has been increased from four to five by the promotion of Mr. Waren Tay"; and, in line 4, after "Aural Surgery", insert "Mr. T. Mark Hovell has been appointed junior Aural Surgeon." At end of paragraph, add "Mr. Rodgers has resigned the lectureship on Toxicology."

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

Dr. Thin, London; Dr. J. Alexander, Glasgow; Inquirer; Marylebone; Mr. A. Moos, London; Inquiries; Mr. G. R. Moore, Consett; Dr. R. Drury, Colchester; Mr. T. J. Verrall, Brighton; Dr. G. W. Balfour, Edinburgh; Old Régime; Dr. J. T. Dillon, Listowel; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. F. Taylor, London; Dr. T. Robinson, London; Dr. Spencer Cobbold, London; Dr. Cockle, London; Mr. W. W. Groome, Stowmarket; Dr. Dempsey, Belfast; Mr. Minno Scott, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. C. B. Lockwood, London; Mr. J. F. West, Birmingham; Dr. Lombe Atthill, Dublin; Dr. E. Haward, London; M.D., M.Ch., L.M.; Dr. C. F. Hutchinson, Scarborough; Dr. Seaton, Nottingham; Mr. Clifford L. Drew, Lynmouth; Mr. F. Vacher, Birkenhead; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. R. T. McGaugh, Belfast; Mr. J. S. Ladell, London; Mr. W. H. Axford, Southsea; Dr. F. de Chaumont, Southampton; Dr. Leech, Manchester; Mr. J. Lloyd Roberts, Denbigh; Dr. Crichton Browne, London; Mr. W. Trenewy, Bristol; Dr. Bradbury, Llandover; Mr. James Duggins, Lancaster; Dr. W. Balls-Headley, Melbourne; Dr. H. Walker, Beverley; Brigade-Surgeon T. D. Tomlinson, Beverley; Mr. Samuel Oldham, Burslem; Our Correspondents in Egypt; Dr. Gregory, Bolton; Mr. W. J. Mackie, Turvey; etc.

#### BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

A Treatise on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Chest. By William Stokes, M.D. London: New Sydenham Society. 1882.

A Practical Treatise on Electro-Diagnosis in Diseases of the Nervous System. By A. Hughes Bennett, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.

S. Thomas's Hospital Reports. Edited by Dr. Robert Cory and Mr. Francis Mason. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1882.

A Critique on the Criticisms of the Simplicity of Life. By Ralph Richardson, M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1882.

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