Richmond, Surrey.

#### REFECTS OF RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

SIR,-In answer to Dr. Atkinson's note in the JOURNAL of October 20th, regarding the influence of constant railway travelling, I would relate the following case. The attendant of a Pullman's car which travels between London and Glasgow was Once a patient of mine. This man had been four years in his situation, and had not been a single journey off work. He travelled every alternate night from London to Glasgow, and the next from Glasgow to London, sleeping during the day, when in Glasgow in the car, and when in London at his home. When at home, his sleep was broken and restless, owing, he explained, to the absence of noise to which he was accustomed.

When I first saw him, he looked haggard, careworn, and bleached, but appeared well nourished. There was absolutely nothing the matter with him bodily, except a little indigestion; but he stated that he constantly had illusions that people were behind him, and that there would be an accident; he felt his life a burden, and was sure it was all owing to "the running". This latter idea so beset him, that he had no faith in being able to get well without a rest. He was in the habit of drinking a little beer, and smoked occasionally. My treatment was to stop all stimulants and smoking, to diminish animal foodigently, and give drachmdoses of compound syrup of phosphates twice in the twenty-four hours. He got well within a month, and, when I travelled with him a year afterwards, he told me he had had no return of the symptoms.

He told me that other carmen had suffered as he had done, and had broken down under it, after taking stimulants to relieve; also that no men travelled so far or so constantly as Pullman carmen, guards being changed regularly every 200 miles at most, and engine-drivers every 100 miles. When I first saw this patient, I had small hope of curing him without a cessation from travelling, and was pleasantly surprised at his rapid improvement.-I am, sir, your obedient servant,

SIR,-I should be glad to have any information and particulars respecting cost of IR,—I should be glad to have any information and particulars respecting cost of building a cottage hospital containing four wards, in addition to nurses' rooms and kitchen; and would thank any brother member to let me have the result of his experience of such, especially comparative cost of concrete, stone, or brick, with any plans or suggestions.—Your obedient servant,

Valentia, Kerry.

W. M. WHITTAKER, M.B.

EDMUND A. COOK.

### THE FLAVOUR OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

The Flavour of Bromide of Potassium.

Sir,—In reply to your correspondent "Bromide", who asks in last week's Journal for "a pleasant medium for masking the taste of large doses of bromide of potassium and chloral," I beg to suggest the extractum glycyrrhize liquidum, B.P. I have long since found this to be one of the best pharmacopæial preparations for disguising the taste of the above nauseous drugs, as well as of others, notably the chloride of ammonium. In addition to the flavouring agent, a draught of either chloral or bromide of potassium, or of both combined, should be well diluted. Dr. E. C. Seguin, in his Archives of Medicine (August 1887), recommends that the iodide of potassium and the various alkaline bromides should be given in a liberal quantity of Vichy water, or of the attificial water supplied in syphons; and states, among other advantages claimed for this mode of administration, that the taste of these drugs is considerably masked by the sparkle and subacid taste of the effervescent drink. Milk, also, has been recommended as a vehicle for the administration of bromide of potassium, the taste of twenty grains of the salt, it is said, being concealed by one ounce of milk.

Again, a writer in the Canada Medical and Surgical Journal (August 1880) asserts that the intensely bitter taste of the bromide of potassium "is easily overcome by giving three drachms of simple syrup with each drachm of the bromide."

—Yours, etc.,

GEORGE F. Duffey, M.D.

Yours, etc., 30, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin, October 30th, 1882.

30, Fitzwilliam Flace, Dublin, October 30th, 1852.

IR,—In reply to "Bromide", asking for a suggestion as to a pleasant medium for masking the taste of large doses of bromide of potassium and chloral, I would advise him to try simple syrup, giving three drachms of it with each drachm of the bromide. The three drachms of syrup, if properly prepared, should contain about 150 grains of sugar. This idea I copied some years ago from one of the medical papers, but I have forgotten which. I have found it very useful in disguising the saline taste of bromide of potassium in solution.—Yours faithfully,

Exeter. ARTHUR BLOMFIELD, M.D. SEVERAL other correspondents have sent replies to the letter of "Bromide" in last

week's JOURNAL.

Dr. SAMUEL BARTON believes that, if "Bromide" will try ten or fifteen minims of the liquid extract of liquorice and an ounce of clove-water for each dose of chloral and potassium, whether bromide or iodide, he will have reason to be pleased with the result.

Dr. W. Frazer (Bournemouth) suggests a trial of syrup of tolu or fluid extract of liquorice. He has found the first of these an excellent medium for the administration of chloral, and the latter very effective in disguising the taste of such salts as bromide of potassium and chloride of ammonium.

"Observer" recommends the addition of an ounce and a half of syrup and three

fluid drachms of tincture of orange-peel to each mixture. This addition makes a plain mixture of bromide of potassium fairly palatable. The acrid taste, however, of the chloral hydrate is difficult to conceal.

A Curious Conjunction. The Board of Directors of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children have passed a resolution urging upon the municipal authorities the establishment of a hospital for the treatment of contagious diseases among children.

TRLEPHONES FOR ZYMOTIC HOSPITALS.

SIR,—It may interest Dr. Leftwich to know that, for many months, we have had a telephonic communication between the Corporation Fever Hospital and a central station (the Council House), and that it is very largely used by friends of patients to get information concerning their progress and their wants. It has proved an immense public convenience, and as to its influence in preventing the spread of the infection, nothing need be said. It has added immensely to the popularity of the hospital.—I am, etc.,

LAWSON TAIT, Chairman of Health Subcommittee.

7. Great Charles Street. Birmingham.

SIR. - A gentleman, a friend of mine, wishes to place his son in a good commercial The boy is not strong, so he wants to send him to a school where there is plain good living.—I remain, yours truly,

C. E. Heron Rogers. Retford, Nottingham

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

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# Contents.

CLINICAL LECTURE on the TREATMENT of CLEFT PALATE. Delivered in University Hospital. By Christopher Heath, F.R.C.S., Holme Professor of Clinical Surgery in University College, London (with Woodcuts) ...

ANTISEPTIC INHALATIONS By WM. HARTIGAN, M.K.Q.C.P.I., Hong Kong

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: PAPERS and DISCUSSIONS in SECTIONS.

Section A: Medicine-

Section A: Medicine—
TWO CASES of LOCOMOTOR
ATAXY, with ANOMALOUS SYMPTOMS: with especial Reference to
the Syphilitic Origin of the Disease
and its Treatment by Iodide of Potassium. By R. SHINGLETON SMITH,
M.D., B.Sc., M.R.C.P., Physician to
the Bristol Eye Infirmary ... 876
CASES of TE LEGRAPHISTS'
CRAMP. By EDMUND ROBINSON,
M.R.C.S.E., Lecturer on Anatomy at
the Leeds School of Medicine ... 880
The PREVIOUS SYMPTOMS in

The PREVIOUS SYMPTOMS in CASES of PERFORATION of the BOWEL in ENTERIC (TYPHOID) FEVER. By J. W. Byrrs, M.A., M.D., Physician to the Hospital for Stale Children Reliefer. Sick Children, Belfast

On the PATHOLOGY of JAUNDICE. ByW. R.Thomas, M.D.M., R.C.P. 882

On the Improved SANITATION of CANNES. By C. J. B. WILLIAMS, M.D., F.R.S.
On the INFLUENCE OF BACILLI in the PRODUCTION of DISEASE.
By J. COSSAR EWART, M.D. ... 884
CREMATION, with special REFERENCE to the RECENT CASES in DORSET, the FIRST in MODERN ENGLAND. By J. COMYNS LEACH, M.D. ... 885 

CLINICAL MEMORANDA. Epitheliona of Œsophagus: Communication established, by Ulceration, with left Bronchus. By F. STOCKWELL, M.D. —Whooping-cough in a Patient over Eighty. By W. H. WHITE, M.D. 888

SURGICAL MEMORANDA, Case of Snake-Bite; Recovery. By Surgeon-Major J. D. GUNNING, L.R.C.S.Ed. -Undeveloped Testes associated with Early Tobacco-chewing. By R. C. Lucas, B.S.Lond. . . . ib.

#### HOSPITAL REPORTS.

CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY. Extraction of a Broken Instrument from the Bladder (With Woodcut) .. 889 BIRMINGHAM EVE HOSPITAL ... 890 ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY ib. THE INFIRMARY OF H.M.'s. CONVICT PRISON, PORTLAND

# REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

CLINICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON .. 892 METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: S. LONDON DISTRICT WEST LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY .. .. .. 894 CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL SOCIETY .. 895 SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH ... 896
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: Pathological Section .. ib.

# REVIEWS & NOTICES.

YEO (J. Burney, M.D.) Health Resorts and their Uses ... 807 DUCLAUX (E.) Ferments and Maladies

SMITH (E. Noble, F.R.C.S.Ed.) The Surgery of Deformities ... 899
NOTES ON BOOKS ...

# **NEW INVENTIONS.**

A Combination Stethoscope

### LEADING ARTICLES.

THE MEDICAL ACTS AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION. II. COMMISSION. II. .. .. .. 901
SUPERSESSION AGAIN IN THE BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICE .. .. 902
THE MAL DEL PINTO .. .. 903
THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AND THE
ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE ... 904

ARMY AND NAVY GAZETTE .. 904
THE WERK. Miscellaneous.—The Victoria University.—The Originator of Hospital Sunday.—St. Mary's Hospital.—The Rose Cormack Fund.—The Missing and Unrecognised Dead.—Sir Thomas Watson.—Sport and Charity.
—The Bradshaw Lecture.—The Health of Corners states. of Cannes, etc.

THE WEEK. SCOTLAND .. 910 THE WEEK. IRELAND

THE EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION. Special Report on the British Army Hospital at Cairo.—The Committee on the Army Medical Department THE ILLNESS OF SIR THOMAS WATSON

THE PARKES MUSEUM

# ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING. — PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL-BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.—WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: A UTUMNAL MEETING. —
SOUTHERN BRANCH: DORSET DISTRICT. — METROPOLITAN COUNTIES
BRANCH: SOUTH LONDON DISTRICT.
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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Treatment of Subclavian Aneurysm. By W. Stokes, F.R.C.S.I.-Scarlet Fever. By J. A. Myrtle, M.B.—The Treatment of Rheumatic Fever by the Internal Administration of Tincture of Cantharides. By J. A. Thompson, M.D.—Is Quarantine useful against Cholera? By T. M. Lownds, M.D. 917

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY 010 MILITARY & NAVAL MEDI-CAL SERVICES .. ib.

PUBLIC HEALTH & POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES OBITUARY.

George Critchett, F.R.C.S. .. 921

MEDICAL NEWS .. ib.

OPERATION DAYS AND HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOS-PITALS MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING NEXT

WEEK ... i.i.
LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO
CORRESPONDENTS. The Sewage of the
Thames.—London Schools.—Test for
Traces of Alcohol in Organic Fluids.—
Professor Pacini's Letter, etc. ... ib.

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