

TROUBLESOME FREQUENCY OF MICTURITION.

SIR,—I should be obliged for information as to treatment in the following case. A boy aged five years has been suffering from frequency of micturition for some months. He was so affected for two or more months before my assistance was sought for, as the parents thought he would get better. The child is of very fair complexion, apparently in good health, and in capital spirits. Since I began attending him, he has increased in flesh, but is still troubled by the frequent calls to micturate. He has no pain either before, during, or after micturition, no scalding or uneasiness whatever; but, unless he is attended to at once, he wets his clothes. His urine never stops suddenly, and there has never been any blood, pus, nor stringy mucous deposit. He is very uncertain; sometimes he is better during the day, and at other times he goes, perhaps, a night and a day without any trouble; but, when you think he is better, the frequent desire to micturate returns again. He knows when he wants to pass urine, but requires immediate attention to avert wetting his clothes. With regard to the quantity, he does not pass more than a pint or a half during the day, but this varies a little. The specific gravity has, with few exceptions, been very high, viz., 1030, but I have never been able to detect any sugar, and I may say he has no other sign whatever of diabetes. On one occasion, there was a deposit of uric acid on the urine cooling, but only once. On several occasions, there has been a deposit of phosphates (triple). On examining the urine to-day, the specific gravity was 1024; it was of pale straw colour, acid reaction, with a copious deposit of urates, and I could also detect a few crystals of oxalate of lime. There was no albumen. His tongue is clean and moist. The bowels were regular. There are no worms as far as one can say. The urine is always clear on passing, and has never smelt ammoniacal. A brother and sister—one younger and the other older than himself—are troubled in the same way, but not so bad.

He has never cared much for meat, but prefers puddings, vegetables, etc. Lately, he has had a more decided liking for meat. Has no particular thirst, but generally drinks milk, with or without a very small quantity of tea in it at tea and breakfast, while for dinner he usually has water.

His prepulse is somewhat long, but there never has been, nor is there now, any signs of irritation. No sound has been passed. When belladonna is given, it produces, after a time, a dryness and roughness of the arms and hands. Hoping some correspondent will favour me with their opinion, I am, yours truly,

A COUNTRY SURGEON.

ERRATA.—In the JOURNAL of November 18th, page 1003, column 1, line 7, for "Mr. Collingridge," read "Dr. Clippingdale". On page 1020, column 1, lines 15, 16, 17, for "Mr. West thought that with small stones..." it was better to deal with them by lithotomy," read, "Mr. West thought that with small stones a single sitting would suffice, but with large hard stones it was better to deal with them by lithotomy." In the JOURNAL of November 25th, page 1076, col. 1, line 5, of the paragraph "Norwich Medical and Surgical Society," for "Lark" read "Lack".

HOW CERTIFYING SURGEONS GET RICH.

SIR,—An accident happened last week at a neighbouring factory, necessitating the amputation of a man's hand. My duties as certifying surgeon were to visit the patient at his own house, and take down his evidence as to the cause of the accident; afterward to proceed to the factory, a distance of between three and four miles, and there hold an inquiry, eliciting such information from the manager and other officials as was obtainable; to examine the machinery, and make myself sufficiently conversant with its workings, to appreciate the manner in which the accident was brought about; to embody all this in a report, and forward the same without delay to Whitehall.

The fees for my journey, investigations, and report, are all included in the Factory Act under the term "mileage"; and, for over three miles, the distance of the factory from my residence, the sum of five shillings and sixpence is allowed. The cost of a fly (a shilling a mile out, and sixpence a mile home, and one shilling and sixpence the driver) amounts to seven shillings and sixpence.

But the joke is not ended. My instructions are, that all accounts are to be sent in in November. The accident happening on the 21st, I forwarded my claim, with the report, on the 6th. The following day, my little bill was returned, with an intimation that it was to be sent again in November 1883, as no accounts could be received that were made up after October 31st. To conclude: whilst examining the machinery, it was working upon one of the most explosive compounds known; and I am only thankful that I was myself not blown into little bits, and that some other unfortunate certifying surgeon was not mulcted in two shillings for having to investigate and report upon me.—I am, yours, etc.,

EDWARD GARRAWAY.

Faversham, November 1882.

SIR,—If "A General Practitioner" would state the terms of his agreement with his druggist, i.e., whether he pays him so much per bottle, etc., or a slight advance on cost price of drugs, with a fixed charge on each article for "time and trouble," he would confer a favour on some who, like me, may have tried a somewhat similar plan, but have been compelled to abandon it, mainly because of the cost.—Yours truly,

NOBILIS.

SIR,—Will some gentleman inform me where there is a Protestant institution where I can send a dumb boy to learn some trade, etc.? The parents would be able to pay a small weekly sum towards his support?—Yours, etc.,

JOHN H. WRAITH.

Lower Bank, Over Darwen.

INTERMITTENT PULSE.

SIR,—I have been suffering from intermittent pulse for two or three years past, at intervals, and shall be much obliged to any of my brother members who have suffered in a similar way, if they will tell me what they have found give relief; and also whether they have been cured of it. I have a country practice and take a good share of exercise on horseback and on foot, besides driving. I am practically a teetotaler, eat meat twice a day, and drink a good deal of milk, and only smoke a couple of pipes in the evening. I am obliged to take aloetic purgatives frequently, and the urine is of high specific gravity and acid. I am told there is no trace of a *bruit*, and no hypertrophy, and after a month's holiday in the summer my tracings by sphygmograph were very good. I have no worry beyond that inseparable from practice, and I should like to get better, as I am only yours faithfully,

FORTY-THREE.

DESQUAMATION AFTER SCARLET FEVER.

SIR,—Dr. Myrtle, in his notes on scarlet fever, mentioned that his cases continued desquamating about the feet after a free use of carbolic oil. Without doubt, this powerful antiseptic will kill the germs in the desquamating epithelium, and it will also cause the epithelium to desquamate. I have been consulted by other medical gentlemen in cases of prolonged desquamation after scarlet fever, where carbolic acid has been used; and, upon advising the cessation of the remedy, the desquamation has also ceased.—Yours truly,

FRANCIS JAMES BAILEY, L.R.C.P. Lond.
51, Grove Street, Liverpool, E., November 11th, 1

THE ACME MEDICAL CAR.

SIR,—In reply to the request of "Quæstor" in the JOURNAL of 11th instant, that some of your readers would give him their opinion of the "acme medical car," may I say that I have had one of these vehicles in constant use for the past six months, and that I have had every reason to be well satisfied with it. It is very light in draught, and extremely comfortable to ride in.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

T. E. HAYWARD.

Haydock, near St. Helens, Lancashire, November 15th, 1882.

Dr. A. G. YOUNG will be answered next week.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Vol. VII. Session 1881-2. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1882.

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