

cated the practice of placing the blister an inch and a half below the left clavicle—(neither more nor less)—and it was a *sine qua non* that it should be only half the size of a playing-card; brown paper alone cured a young man in Scudamore's time; Gull and Sutton use mint-water; but such individuals as myself, in spite of every care, fail to accomplish such results by legitimate therapeutics.

Bleeding was once the cure for rheumatism; and I have little doubt that, before long, some "thought-reader", like Mr. Cumbeland, or Maskelyne and Cook, will be engaged to unravel the pathology of all known diseases. If a blister, in 1882, applied over the heart, can cure gout and rheumatism, Cullen, Scudamore, Garrod, and a host of other writers in our own day, must have spent their time in vain, teaching that art which we call by the dignified title therapeutics. That the blistering treatment is not novel in the cure of rheumatism is perfectly clear. Cantharides may be looked upon as a specific by some, but it will only have its day, and then it will be placed simply as a mode of blistering, and not as a specific. It is placing a blister over the heart, or a little lower than that doctored by Fleischmann.

The heart-affection that is so prone to occur in rheumatism has for long enough been treated by blisters; but the faith which novelty engenders is ever evanescent, and it does no harm to the credulous, but rather good, to hear betimes of "my plan" of treatment; but I pity the patients upon whom experiments with cantharides inwardly and outwardly are exclusively used as curative agents in gout and rheumatism.—I am, etc.,

HENRY BROWN.

Northallerton, November 6th, 1882.

WARTS AFTER PERFORMING A NECROPSY.

SR.—A medical friend has just performed a *post mortem* examination about two years ago, having at the time scratched away the back of the interphalangeal joint of the right thumb. About a month afterwards, a pimple appeared at the seat of the scratch, and ultimately developed into a growth like a wart, but surrounded by an inflammatory areola, and accompanied by occasional itching. At the present time, a considerable portion of the back of the thumb is occupied by similar growths. He has tried shaving the warts, and applying various escharotics, such as nitric acid, nitrate of silver, resin, etc., but without benefit. Excision, from their situation, would seem inexpedient. Could any of your readers inform me of a treatment which has been tried and proved successful?—I am, etc., B. C.

* * * We have referred this question to an eminent surgeon, whom we knew to have special experience in the matter, who replies: "I believe the best plan is not to excise the warts, but to steep them and the skin around them thoroughly in the acid nitrate of mercury, and repeat this from time to time as its effects pass away. It must be done repeatedly, and at as short intervals as practicable." He cured himself of an affection of the kind some years since, but not till after numerous applications, repeated over a space of at least three months. Great patience and perseverance are required. The application is not seriously painful.

W. E.—Yes, we believe the same gentleman.

EFFICIENT VACCINATION.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if you could kindly inform me as to what is respectively the first class and second class Government award for efficient vaccination. I have received the grant five times, but could never understand the principle on which the amount was founded.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

* The scars produced by the vaccinator must be thoroughly well marked in their foveation; and where this character is satisfactory, two grades of merit will be recognised: first grade, with scars having collectively at least half a square inch total area; second grade (admitted only in cases of a first award), with scars less than the above, but having collectively at least one-third of a square inch total area. No vaccinator who has once received an award for work of the second grade is deemed eligible for any subsequent award unless his work have attained the first grade.

AMBULANCE INSTRUCTION.

A MEMBER.—1. There are no special books of ambulance instruction, published solely for volunteers. 2. The manuals used by all volunteer surgeons are the same as those in use by the Army Hospital Corps, and are as follows: *a. Manual of Instructions for Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the Army Hospital Corps*, price 2s; *b. Manual of Exercises for Stretcher-Bearers and Bearer-Companies*. Both are published by Messrs. Clowes and Sons, Charing Cross. The latter book contains all the necessary drill for a bearer-company, whilst the former treats of rudimentary anatomy, bandaging, etc.

URINARY CABINET.

L. M.—Dr. Styrup's cabinet, alluded to in our comments on the exhibits in the Annual Museum of the British Medical Association, in the *JOURNAL* of October 14th, page 760, may be had in mahogany or walnut wood case (price £4), from Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, who have also introduced a modified form of it, in vulcanite, price £3.

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN IN ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

PEROXIDE OF HYDROGEN IN ANTISEPTIC SURGERY

SIR,—I have just been reading Mr. Kingzett's article in your issue of December and find peroxide of hydrogen as an antiseptic in surgery, and in which, amongst others, he refers to my experience of its use in dental surgery. I can only endorse as the good quality he claims for it, but especially in the treatment of the exposed dental nerve. Formerly we used carbolic acid as an antiseptic in these cases; but as there was a large percentage of failures under this treatment, I was induced to try "Sanitas" oil as a substitute for the carbolic acid, and found the failures considerably diminish, patients also preferring the taste of it to either carbolic acid or eucalyptus oil. I think that many of my professional brethren will agree with me that a large amount of failures in treating exposed "nerves" may be traceable to carbolic poisoning, and will hail with pleasure an agent which, while possessing antiseptic powers equal to, if not exceeding, carbolic acid, can furnish a sufficiency of oxygen to consume the products of decomposition arising from destroyed pulp-tissue.

There are other preparations of this "Sanitas" group, of which I have gladly availed myself in my professional practice, and I believe that they only require to be better known amongst dental surgeons to be extensively used; but it is of the oil that I am now specially speaking, feeling that, having tried it now for four years, I can entirely discontinue the use of any other antiseptic in the treatment of exposed nerves.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

T. CHARTERS WHITE.

32, Belgrave Road, S.W., December 5th, 1886.

32, Belgrave Road, S.W., December 5th, 1887.

CLIMATE OF CYPRUS.

SIR,—I have a patient, a lady, who proposes going to Cyprus next spring. Can any of your correspondents give me any information with regard to the climate, etc., particularly what are the diseases; and at what ages is it habitable for children? My patient has one child aged eight years, one eighteen months, and a baby. Any other information likely to be of assistance I should feel very grateful for.—I am, sir, yours truly,
C. F. PORTER, M.R.C.S., etc.

Fleetwood, Lancashire, November 13th, 1882.

D. TACEY wishes to know if there is a home for the partially paralysed. He has a patient who is able to be led about, but who, in every other respect, is helpless. He could pay from 20s. to 30s. a week.

CARMEN.—We doubt it.

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

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