TREATMENT OF INSOMNIA.

SIR,—Will you permit me to thank those gentlemen who replied to my inquiries for a reliable remedy for insomnia, after all the ordinary means had been tried and found wanting?

The death of my patient a week or two afterwards prevented my trying several drugs which were suggested. On the recommendation, however, of Dr. Collier of Gorleston, I tried croton chloral hydrate in doses of from five to ten grains, combined with chloral-hydrate in thirty-grain doses; and, on account of the cardiac debility, I added dram-doses of spirit of ether. This mixture produced sleep more effectually than anything else I have prescribed.—I remain, yours faithfully,

JAMES RYLEY, M.D. 91, Regent Road, Great Yarmouth, December 9th, 1882.

or, Regent Road, Great Yarmouth, December 9th, 1882.

Sir,—In your issue of last week, Dr. Ryley of Great Yarmouth cites a case of "cardiac disease" associated with "congestion of the lungs", in which a leading symptom is insomnia, and requests your readers to furnish him with any treatment they may have found reliable under similar circumstances. I have had the honour of communicating with Dr. Ryley upon the subject, and, since the drug I bring under his notice is not in very general use, I have thought the present a good opportunity to associate its name with the treatment of insomnia, and therefore inclose my suggestion for publication, in case you may deem it worth the space in your columns. The following is the substance of my letter to Dr. Ryley: I have much pleasure in suggesting to your notice croton-chloral in five-grain doses every half-hour until sleep be produced, or two drachms of the drug administered. Liebreich gives as much as one drachm for a dose, and considers the drug preferable to chloral-hydrate, since it does not interfere with the circulation or respiration.

It should, under these circumstances, be particularly appropriate in the case It should, under these circumstances, be particularly appropriate in the case you mention, as it is of some importance that these two functions are not affected by the selected soporific. I may also mention that, in America, I have seen it combined with hydrate of chloral, when very large doses of this latter drug have been found necessary; and it is in such cases as your own that this combination is supposed to be particularly valuable.

In conclusion, I may state that lately have had two patients under treatment, in both of which "sleeplessness" was a conspicuous and distressing symptom.

In the first case, croton-chloral was prescribed for the affection in chiefmigraine; and, although it falled to produce the specific effect intended—the attack lasting its usual period—the patient obtained a light and refreshing sleep, from which she could be easily aroused, whenever the drug was administered.

In the second case, I ordered croton-chloral as a soporific to a patient, the subject of hypochondriasis, who was unable to sleep for more than a few minutes at

In the second case, I ordered croton-chloral as a soporthe to a patient, the subject of hypochondriasis, who was unable to sleep for more than a few minutes at a time. Other soporifies had been tried, and with only moderate success. In this, as in the first case, refreshing sleep was produced. The form of administration was thefollowing: croton-chloral 5i; glycerine fi. 5ss.; water to fi. 5vi.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

Herbert Collete, M.D.

High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, November 22nd, 1882.

CARRIAGE-LIGHTS AT NIGHT.

A GOMPLAINT is urged by a contemporary that in winter, when our days are sometimes made darker by fog than even our nights, few of our public cabs and carriages show the "vestige of a lighted lamp"; and it thinks that the English public need reminding "that there exists in England a similar law to the French law of 1861". No such law, however, as that to which he alludes at present exists. Under the Act 32 and 33 Vict., c. 115, the Secretary of State has power to make regulations on the subject, should he deem it advisable; and, in our opinion, it certainly is highly advisable, in the interest of persons obliged to be out on these foggy nights. The only public vehicles which carry lamps are the Hansom cabs. The omnibuses and four-wheeled cabs give no such token of their advent; and, in the case of aged and short-sighted persons, the dangers of crossing the crowded and slipper streets and short-sighted persons, the dangers of crossing the crowded and slippery streets of London is certainly much enhanced; and it would be well if, on the advent of a probably foggy and frosty winter, Sir William Harcourt exercised his dormant

J. A. WILLIAMS.—The paper is marked for insertion.

MR. SILVERTON'S advertisement relating to "deafness, consumption, asthma, and other disorders', is after the usual style of the advertising fraternity. The advertisement states "that he is assisted by a physician, who makes a careful examination", etc.; but inquiries made at the address given have failed to obtain the name of the individual so described. Until, therefore, we have stronger evidence of his existence, we shall hesitate to believe that there is any medical man so forgetful of his drift to himself and the wiblings to connecte with Mr. Silverton in his adhis duty to himself and the public as to co-operate with Mr. Silverton in his advertising practices. The case, however, deserves the attention of one of the Medical Defence Associations.

SHIP-SURGEONS.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to ask, through your JOURNAL, the kind of life led by a ship-surgeon on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's boats going to Jamaica and the neighbouring islands, giving an idea of how the day is spent, the duties of the surgeon, his accommodation, places where the ship touches, and the time he is away?—Yours truly,

T. R. Allinson, L.R.C.P.Ed. me he is away?—Yours truly, 2, Kingsland Road, E.

ERRATA.—In the JOURNAL of December oth, p. 1132, vol. i, lines 11 and 12, for "I fancy that calculous deposit or impacted calculus is thus detected. Its removal may be accomplished", read, "If either calculous deposit or impacted calculus is thus detected, its removal may be accomplished".

INDIA-RUBBER BANDAGES.

INDIA-RUBBER BANDAGES.

SIR,—In two cases where I have recently ordered "Martin's India-rubber Bandages", my patients complain of most intense irritation. In the one case, the bandages would be a great comfort to the wearer, but the itching all day, and redness in the evening, almost neutralise the benefit derived. There is no abrasion of skin. In the other case, even when worn over a thin stocking, a condition resembling eczema is produced wherever the bandage covers the leg, and the stocking becomes saturated with moisture. There is an ulcer near the ankle, but the skin around it is not more affected than where no ulceration exists. skin around it is not more affected than where no ulceration exists.

I should be grateful for any suggestions as to how the irritation may be prevented.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

Teddington, S.W., November 13th, 1882.

A Fellow, Wolverhampton. There are now on the College register 1,194 Fellows, of which number 621 obtained the distinction by examination, as did Mr. arrison, who is an old St. Bartholomew's man.

- J. B. K.—There is no difficulty in administering pilocarpine. Both the nitrate and the chlorate dissolve readily in water, and the solution does not decompose on keeping. To obtain the diaphoretic action, half a grain may be given by mouth or a third of a grain may be injected hypodermically. It is not depressing, and rarely gives rise to bad symptoms of any kind. For an account of its physiological action and therapeutic uses, consult the articles in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of December 4th, 1880, and June 18th, 1881. Monobromide of camphor is used as a nervous sedative and antispasmodic. It is used in the treatment of spermatorrhoea, seminal emissions, hysteria, and epilepsy. The dose is from two grains upwards, and it is best given in the form of capsuled pills. Vaseline forms a good basis for iodoform ointment, and it may be used of any scrength you may think fit.
- N. E. is referred to the London Medical Record for November 15th, 1882, p. 454.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Outlines of the Science and Practice of Medicine. By William Aitken, M.D., F.R.S. Second Edition. London: Charles Griffin and Co., Exeter Street, Strand. 1882.

The Botanical Atlas: a Guide to the Practical Study of Plants; containing Representatives of the Leading Forms of Plant Life. Vol. I: Phanerogams. By D. M'Alpine, F.C.S. Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston. 1883.

Dr. A. Ransome on the Relation of the Chest-Movements to Prognosis in the Lung-Diseases. London: Macmillan and Co. 1882.

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