

## HEALTH-SHIPS.

SIR,—Is there not such an institution as a "health-ship," by means of which invalids and convalescents may take short voyages with a view to the benefit to health which may result therefrom? Perhaps some readers can tell me.—Yours faithfully,

HUGH NORRIS.

South Petherton, Somersetshire, July 15th, 1883.

\*. Such an institution as a "health-ship," we believe, does not exist, but invalids find every convenience and attention on board the steamers of several of the chief ocean lines. Unfortunately, the shorter the voyage the less fitted is the ship for convalescents and invalids. Perhaps the best short voyage for patients who require a change of this kind is a trip to Gibraltar and back on board one of the P. and O. steamers, or to Malta on one of the steamers of the British India Line, or to Madeira by one of the Union Company's fine steamships.

## SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE'S PRESCRIPTION FOR GOUT.

SIR,—“Hirsutus,” in the JOURNAL for June 23rd, inquires for the late Sir Benjamin Brodie's prescription for gout. I send you a copy of a prescription of his, answering, I think, the inquiry of your correspondent. I kept it made up, but I did not always use three pills, oftener only two; and I am inclined to think that one, three times a day, with one-eighth of a drachm of the bicarbonate of potash, before meals, would often be found very useful. The pathology of Sir Benjamin, as indicated by the prescription, harmonises with the pathology of the late Sir Charles Scudamore, in which I have believed all my life, and feel a pleasure in being able to send a copy.—“R Pil. hydrargyri; ext. rhei; ext. coloc. co. aa. ℥j; ext. colchici acet. gr. xv; Ft. pil. xv; sumantur tres horæ somni pro nata. July 30th, 1852.”—Yours obediently,

Reading, July 4th, 1883.

T. L. WALFORD, M.R.C.S., etc.

## MEDICAL SERVICE OF BRITISH GUIANA.

SIR,—Could you kindly refer me to the number of the JOURNAL (not July 7th) in which mention is made of the medical service in British Guiana? I am also desirous of obtaining the London address of Dr. J. P. Watt, of Georgetown, Demerara, who is, I believe, now in England.—Yours faithfully,

A MEMBER.

## CRAMP.

SIR,—I have a patient who suffers very severely at night from “cramp,” having to rise often as many as three or four times to have the limb rubbed. I have tried several plans of treatment; but, as they have failed, may I ask for a hint or two from one or two of my fellow members.—Yours very truly,

ENQUIRENS.

## GOUTY DYSPEPSIA.

SIR,—In reply to “L.R.C.P. M.R.C.S.,” in the JOURNAL of July 14th, I beg to say that, if he will recommend his patient to take half a teaspoonful of effervescent citrate of lithia, in half a tumbler of cold water, two or three times a day (and no other drugs), he will soon find a marked improvement in his symptoms. Wine and beer should be forbidden; but, as a stimulant appears to be necessary, the best old Highland whisky may be prescribed in moderate quantities, but it must be the best, and it must be old. Sugar and acids should be carefully avoided. The fall of temperature and other symptoms in the evening are probably due to a weak circulation, caused by want of cardiac power and general debility. A diet consisting largely of boiled fish is very beneficial in cases of “gouty dyspepsia.”—Yours faithfully,

ARCHIMEDES.

## A CHANNEL FOR THE SPREADING OF THE CHOLERA.

SIR,—The water-closets of houses in the poor districts of the East of London, so far as my experience goes, have no other means of flushing except such as the caprice of the inhabitants may supply, and this would be chiefly the waste house-water. They are always more or less in a filthy state, and frequently blocked up. Here is a most inviting opportunity for the easy spread of cholera when unwittingly imported from the docks or elsewhere. I frequently find these houses let each to several families, and whole streets of them belonging to one landlord. I think it would be a real economy to introduce in such cases the “trough-closet,” as used in Liverpool.—I am, yours truly,

Shoreditch, July 25th, 1883.

WILLIAM J. V. HARLE.

## ON THE DIVISION OF ARTERIES BETWEEN TWO LIGATURES.

SIR,—Mr. Walsham has made a most important statement in our JOURNAL, and it is to be regretted that Mr. Holmes entertains a different opinion. If a wounded artery requires ligature, it must be tied at both ends. I am also quite sure that, whether “antiquated” or not, it is the proper surgical treatment, as I have proved in many an accident in colliery districts and elsewhere. I do not understand how a properly made aneurysm-needle could or should “transfix” the vein, or that the artery need be deprived of its covering for more than half an inch, if, as Mr. Walsham says, “it is neatly done.” There may be something in that.—I am, etc.,

C. H. SPOONER, M.R.C.S. Eng.

X. Y. Z.—British titles are not registrable in France. To practise in France, it is necessary to pass an examination in France either as *officier de santé* or as M.D. of the University of Paris.

## CARBOLIC ACID IN DIARRHOEA.

SIR,—I have found carbolic acid of such immense value in cases of diarrhoea that I think its praises should be sounded through the medium of the JOURNAL. Combined with bismuth and aromatic confection, it very soon cures the worst cases of vomiting and diarrhoea in children. Half-minim doses are sufficient. In similar cases occurring in adults, I combine it in minim doses with the usual astringents and sedatives.

Its action in relieving vomiting is, of course, well known to be due to a direct sedative action upon the filaments of the pneumogastric nerves in the stomach. In the cure of diarrhoea, I ascribe its action to the correction of fermentation.

In those cases so common amongst children, for instance, of vomiting and diarrhoea with febrile symptoms, it is reasonable to suppose that the vitality of the stomach and bowels may have become impaired by exposure to cold or wet, and that fermentation has been set up by the consequent imperfect digestion, the fermented contents of the stomach and bowels then causing vomiting and diarrhoea by irritation.

In cases of over-indulgence in fruit, and other errors in diet, the cause is not so far to seek.—I am, sir, yours truly,

OMEGA.

## THE NURSES AT KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—You are incorrect regarding your statements concerning the lady nurses at King's College Hospital, as they were discharged in the most unjust and peremptory manner, and at great inconvenience to themselves, by the members of the Council, merely because a little since the matron, Sister Aimée, reported a case of supposed irregularity by a doctor towards one of the patients. I speak as a parent of one of the lady nurses.—Very truly yours,

M.D.

## MARRIAGE OF COUSINS.

SIR,—Will any of your correspondents kindly inform me what is the title of a book written three or four years since, showing that no evil results arise from the intermarriage of first cousins, or render me any other information on this subject?—I am, etc.,

A FIRST COUSIN.

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

Dr. Stevenson, London; Mr. J. L. Stretton, Kidderminster; Mr. E. H. Denison, London; Dr. F. Pollard, Liverpool; Dr. H. G. Rawdon, Liverpool; Phillis; Mr. D. J. Dutton, Dursley; Mr. F. Boreham, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. G. E. Walker, Liverpool; Dr. R. T. Hales, Holt, Norfolk; Dr. A. W. Wallace, Parsonstown; Dr. Goodhart, London; Dr. A. Davidson, Liverpool; Inspector-General Maclean, Southampton; Dr. D. C. McVail, Glasgow; Dr. Broadbent, London; Mr. A. Graham, London; Mr. James Greenwood, London; Dr. Mackey, Brighton; Messrs. P. Blakiston and Co., Philadelphia; Mr. K. W. Millican, Kineton, Warwickshire; Dr. W. Keble, Hove; Dr. Oxley, Liverpool; Dr. Gairdner, London; Dr. Mackie, Alexandria; Dr. J. Lalor, Dublin; Mr. C. H. Southwell, Boston; Mr. W. H. Allen, Southampton; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Captain Douglas Galton, London; Mr. J. Bate, London; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. T. W. Hime, Sheffield; Dr. J. Milward, Cardiff; Mr. William Bain, Heaton Chapel; Mr. W. Brydon, Hawick; Mr. J. W. Mason, Hull; Dr. T. Eytton-Jones, Wrexham; Mr. F. J. Pollock, Dublin; Dr. S. Spratly, Birkenhead; Dr. Imlach, Liverpool; Mr. C. Puzey, Liverpool; Dr. J. Spottiswoode Cameron, Huddersfield; Dr. L. Connor, Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.; Dr. Davidson, Liverpool; Mr. R. Parry, Carnarvon; Mr. F. W. Jordan, Heaton Chapel; The Secretary of the University of Aberdeen; Dr. Yellowlees, Glasgow; Mr. E. J. Adams, Sheffield; Dr. T. M. Watt, Hovingham; Dr. Fernie, Barnstaple; Messrs. C. H. Burnham and Co., London; Mr. W. J. Mackie, Turvey; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Eddowes, Shrewsbury; Dr. Shuttleworth, Lancaster; Mr. H. C. Stewart, London; Mr. P. Vincent, Taunton; Mr. Hallows, Maidstone; Mr. F. N. Pedley, London; Mr. B. G. Morison, London; Dr. Goullet, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. Alfred Teevan, London; Mr. T. Cooke, London; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Mr. J. Brindley James, London; Dr. Spedding, Belfast; Mr. J. W. Oregreen, Liverpool; Mr. F. J. Wallace, London; The Editor of *Nature*; The Secretary of the Sanitary Insurance Association; Mr. C. H. Southwell, Boston; Dr. Warren, Boston, U.S.A.; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Dr. Cosham, Cirencester; Dr. Muir, Selkirk; Dr. Wagstaffe, Bournemouth; The Secretary of the Wirral Children's Hospital, Birkenhead; Dr. Richardson, Oughtibridge, Sheffield; Mr. R. S. Anderson, Spennymoor; Mr. P. J. Noake, Hailton; Mr. Bennett May, Birmingham; The Secretary of the National Temperance League; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Mr. M. Hoff, Hamburg; Dr. W. M. Campbell, Liverpool; Mr. T. C. Jones, Corwen; The Principal of the Ceylon Medical College; Mr. C. T. Dent, London, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Æsthetical Sanitation. By William White, F.L.A. London: E. Stanford. 1883.

Cholera; How to Prevent and Resist It. By Dr. Max von Pettenkofer. From the German. Translated by Thomas Whiteside Hime, A.B., M.B. Revised by Dr. Von Pettenkofer. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1883.

The Book of Prescriptions Containing Upwards of Two Thousand Prescriptions; Collected from the Practice of the Most Eminent Physicians and Surgeons. By H. Beakley. Sixth Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.

## SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL".

Seven lines and under	...	...	...	...	£0 3 6
Each additional line	...	...	...	...	0 0 4
A whole column	...	...	...	...	1 5 0
A page	...	...	...	...	5 5 0

An average line contains eight words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

For 6 insertions, a deduction of	...	...	10 per cent.
" 12 or 13 "	"	...	20 "
" 26 "	"	...	25 "
" 52 "	"	...	30 "

For these terms, the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than Twelve o'clock on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be sent in postage stamps.