

ONE IDEA.

SIR.—Consulting-room. Enter a tired man, who drops into a seat, and says "that he wants treatment." The doctor puts on his eye-glasses, looks at his tongue, feels his pulse, sounds his chest, and then draws up to his full height and says: "Same old story, my friend. Men can't live without fresh air; no use trying it. I could make myself a corpse, like you are, doing by degrees, if I sat down in my office and didn't stir. You must have fresh air; you must take long walks, and brace up by staying out of doors. Now, I could make a drug store of you, and you would think I was a smart man; but my advice to you is 'walk, walk, walk.'" Patient: "But, doctor—" Doctor: "That's right; argue the question. That's my reward. Of course, you know all about my business. Now, will you take my advice. Take long walks every day—several times a day, and get your blood in circulation." Patient: "I do walk, doctor. I—" Doctor: "Of course you do walk. I know that; but walk more; walk ten times as much as you do now—that will cure you." Patient: "But my business—" Doctor: "Of course, your business prevents it. Change your business so that you will have to walk more. What is your business?" Patient: "I am a letter-carrier." Doctor (paralysed): "My friend, permit me once more to examine your tongue."

ERRATUM.—In the JOURNAL of September 1st, page 445, column 1, in the second note under the head "Cramp," for "bichloride" read "bicarbonate."

A QUESTION AS TO AUTHORSHIP.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Philadelphia Medical News* asks for information as to the author of the following.

"Te mater omnis, te lacrymabis

Accurrit uxor, ne caducum

Orba virum, puerisque ploret;

Seu confluentes forte timet notas

Decora virgo—tu faciem eripis

Periclitantem, protegisque

Delicias juvenum futuras."

"To thee shall weeping wives and mothers fly,
Or see their husbands and their children die;
To thee the virgin trust her lovely face,
Or some rude blemish rife every grace.
Oh, hard the perils that around her wait,
Oh, shield her beauties from impending fate,
Nor let a cruel pestilence destroy
The hope of youth and pledge of future joy."—J. R. Q.

A MEMBER.—1. The following books can be commended: Wilson's *Anatomy*, edited by Buchanan and Clark; Heath's *Practical Anatomy*; Kirkes's *Physiology*, edited by Baker; Bryant's or Holmes's *Surgery*. 2. Certain exemptions are allowed by the regulations of the Royal College of Surgeons in the case of qualified practitioners holding diplomas or degrees in surgery. Our correspondent should send a statement of his case to the secretary of the College, mentioning the qualifications which he possesses; he will thus best ascertain whether a practical course of anatomy can be dispensed with.

DOUBTFUL CASE OF PSORIASIS OF THE TONGUE.

SIR.—Mrs K., aged 58, four years ago had a tenderness and smarting at the back of the tongue and throat, which has never left her. Last February, she complained of a burning in the tongue and mouth, which was worst at the back and left side of the organ. In last February, what she calls white smarting blisters came on, awaking her from sleep. Six weeks afterwards, she consulted a medical man, who ordered her to wash the mouth with alum, and gave her internal medicine, which kept it in check. What the medicine was I do not know. The medical man told her that there was nothing on her tongue; that it proceeded from indigestion. She gave up drinking hot tea, of which she was very fond. She has not slept well from uneasiness about her tongue, her brother having died of some disease of it two years ago. Every morning she has had a dark expectoration when awaking. This morning the sputum was foetid. She is a phlegmatic woman, pale, and bilious looking, with an enlarged liver and a burning and smarting extending from the tongue down to the stomach. The bowels are inclined to be constipated; her tongue is pointed and soft at the point, and hard towards the root, all white, with all the papillæ enlarged and well elevated, and rough to the touch, with slight fissures running across the tongue. The left side of the tongue appears thicker than the right. My treatment is to wash the side and front of the tongue with bromide of potassium, forty grains, glycerine and water to six ounces, and to give a pill of calomel and colocynth with hyoscyamus at night, and half an ounce of the following mixture three times daily after meals:—B. Infusi gentianæ comp. ad 3vij; liq. arsenici (Donovan) 3ij + 3ij; succi conii 3j; tincturæ gentianæ comp. 3ss. There is no history of syphilis; her mother had rheumatism, she herself never had it. I shall be glad if some member would kindly give his opinion as to diagnosis and treatment. She has been ordered walking exercise and generous diet. I am, etc., J. B. K.

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

IN the table of the Medical Schools of Scotland, at page 494 of the JOURNAL for September 8th, the name of Dr. D. A. Robertson should have been inserted under the head "Edinburgh University," as lecturer on Ophthalmic Surgery. Dr. Argyll Robertson gave a course of lectures in the University daily during last May and June, and intends to give a similar course each summer.

RHEUMATISM IN CHILDREN.

SIR.—I must ask you to be kind enough to correct an error in the report of my remarks during the discussion on Rheumatism in Childhood, at the late meeting of the British Medical Association (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, September 15th, 1883, page 518). I am made to say that an inflammatory exudation about the fibrilla of the cardiac muscle might impair the muscular closure of the aorta, and so give rise to a murmur of mitral regurgitation from adynamia. For "aorta" should be read "aperture." I consider it is proved that the muscles encircling the left auriculo-ventricular orifice are active agents in narrowing this orifice at the time of ventricular systole; and that, inasmuch as inflammatory exudation amongst the fibrilla in endocarditis is readily to be demonstrated, it is extremely probable that, in some cases, the murmur of regurgitation which is heard may be due to imperfect closure of the orifice, from causes affecting the muscles rather than the valves.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, A. ERNEST SANSOM.

84, Harley Street, W., September 17th, 1883.

RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

SIR.—"Is there anything undignified in trying to obtain a juster recognition of professional services?" I cannot but help thinking that those of our profession who imagine that gratuitous medical advice has a greater value than paid-for service, have some such scruples as are hinted at in the above quotation. I am very strongly of opinion that professional poverty has a very great deal to say to the political powerlessness of the medical profession (if, indeed, it be not cause and effect). One of two things is certain: either medical advice is estimated at a very low value, or the profession is benevolent to an extreme and absurd degree. Reduce the brain-power employed in gratuitous advice to the crude condition of £ s. d., and, if the cheque were cashed, many of our poorer brethren, who are contributing very largely to the gratuitous system, would be better able to spare their half-guineas for the worthy purpose ably advocated by Messrs. Harrison, Alcock, and Milward.—I am, sir, your obedient servant, J. O.

SANITARY TOWELS.

SIR.—These articles may be very good things of their kind, but it is not edifying to see them, discarded after use, floating about the lake at this beautiful spot. How this carelessness is to be rectified, I know not; but in the hope that this complaint may reach the ears of women who use them, and that they may repeat it to others, and so cause this disgusting heedlessness to be put a stop to, I trouble you with this letter.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES SPURWAY, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Cadenabbia, Lago di Como, September 3rd, 1883.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Sanitary Law; A Digest of Sanitary Acts of England and Scotland. By Aubrey Husband, M.B., C.M. Edinburgh: E. and S. Livingstone. 1883.

The Pharmacopœia of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children. Compiled by a Committee of the Staff. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.

The Law of Sex; being an Exposition of the Natural Law by which the Sex of Offspring is Controlled in Man and the Lower Animals, and giving the Solution of Various Social Problems, with Forty Illustrative Portraits. By G. B. Starkweather, F.R.G.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1883.

The Mason Science College, Birmingham; Calendar for the Session, 1883-84. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers. 1883.

Mary Lamb. By Mrs. Gilchrist. London: W. H. Allen and Co. 1883.

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