

## ANÆSTHETICS.

SIR.—While giving Mr. J. G. Kerr full credit for his interesting paper in the JOURNAL of September 15th, there are nevertheless one or two points which may be disputed. For example, he states that, in Scotland, it is taught that a towel or folded napkin ought invariably to be used for the administration of chloroform. This is quite erroneous; a flannel mask and drop-bottle being largely used in Edinburgh, where anaesthesia induced by ether is by no means infrequent. The drop system is, I should imagine, much superior to the towel; and the mask can easily be momentarily removed to examine the lips, while a couple of fingers under it readily feel the warm expired air, and can quickly appreciate any defect in respiration. Again, Mr. Kerr advises that the patient be brought as rapidly as possible under the anaesthetic (chloroform), which is a doctrine opposed to the experience of many very able chloroformists, who recommend six or eight minutes to be employed in the induction of anaesthesia. It is, of course, self-evident that chloroform, in all cases where severe or prolonged pain is to be expected, should be given to complete anaesthesia, whether the heart be affected or not. In many—or may I not say in most—of the fatal cases, the heart has been found practically healthy. Mr. Kerr omits reference to the use of morphia and atropia subcutaneously, twenty or thirty minutes before the inhalation of chloroform is begun.—I remain, your obedient servant,

G. ARMSTRONG ATKINSON, M.B. Edin.

Wylam-upon-Tyne, September 17th, 1883.

Two MEMBERS.—It is quite true that, some years ago, the bodies of all persons executed at the Old Bailey were afterwards handed over to the College of Surgeons, by whom, after a short *post mortem* examination, they were distributed in turn to the anatomical schools attached to the recognised metropolitan hospitals.

## IRISH WAKES.

SIR.—I do not by any means take exception to your article on Irish wakes; but, as an Irishman, I take exception to your imputation that wakes are merely held to give excuse for merry-making. They are relics of penal times, when it was made impossible for a priest to meet his flocks, except in disguise, five pounds being offered for his head.

With regard to sanitation, it is hard to expect much from uneducated peasants when such bad example is set in Government institutions, of which I may say the following is a fair sample.

The military barracks here has its offal from privies, etc., carried by an open drain by a circuitous route, to empty itself into the River Brosna, before that river enters Mullingar, through the middle of which it passes, expanding into a small lough in its middle.

The same holds good with regard to the workhouse lunatic asylum and gaol, while it is quite a common thing to see a police-barracks with its privy on the road-side, with nothing but a board to prevent the nuisance, perhaps of years, flowing out on the roadside.

When such things occur in the green wood, what may we expect in the dry?—Your obedient servant,

LAURENCE KERIGAN, L.R.C.S.I.

Mullingar, Ireland, September 18th, 1883.

## MEDICAL ADVERTISING.

The following handbill has been forwarded to us for publication. "Payment in time of sickness only. Self-supporting dispensary, 107, Stamford Street, Blackfriars, S.E. (formerly at 76, Stamford Street). Dr. Seymour, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M., L.S.A., etc., registered physician and surgeon, late dental assistant to the London Hospital, etc., attends daily: mornings, 9 to 12; evenings, 6 to 9; Sundays, mornings only, 9 to 11. Fees: advice and medicine, sixpence; visit and medicine, one shilling; vaccination in two places (or more if desired), sixpence; teeth skilfully extracted, sixpence each. No letters of recommendation."

## THE BEST DEPILATORY.

SIR.—I shall be thankful if any of my brother members could suggest the remedy for successfully removing a moustache and whiskers from a lady patient's face. She is of dark complexion, and when heated or excited, the hair is unpleasantly apparent.

CHARLES HOGG.

12a, Charterhouse Square, E.C., September 25th, 1883.

## CRAMPS.

SIR.—If "Enquirens" has not tried the following plan, he will possibly obtain relief for his patient by instructing him to extend the limb to the utmost (without leaving the bed), at the same time flexing the ankle-joint so as to get the toe well back towards the front of the leg, immediately upon the seizure. The writer, who formerly suffered much from cramp, invariably found instant relief by adopting this method, and has recommended it to many others with equally good results.—Yours obediently,

F. W. F.

ALPHA.—As the Medical Acts Amendment Bill did not pass during the recent session, and the formation of a single examining board for each division of the kingdom is consequently postponed, our correspondent's position with regard to the examinations of the University of Aberdeen is not affected. There is no probability of any change in the law before he has completed his examinations.

## CARRIAGE TAX.

SIR.—Will any member kindly inform me whether a movable hood to a phaeton can be considered as part of the "movable furniture," and, as such, be taken off before the phaeton is weighed for the purpose of fixing the duty? I have heard both "Yes" and "No," but not from reliable sources.—I am, etc.,

G. V.

A PARENT, Liverpool.—The preliminary examinations of the Royal College of Surgeons having now come to an end, all inquiries with respect to recognised preliminary examinations should be addressed to the Registrar of the General Medical Council, 299, Oxford Street, W. The registration of hospital studies at the College is also abolished.

## A CURIOSITY IN OBSTETRICS.

SIR.—A patient, aged 66, was attended in her last confinement twenty-four years ago. She was very ill for eleven weeks afterwards; probably through puerperal fever. She has never seen any menstrual discharge since that time. She has completely lost the sense of smell, and almost entirely that of taste. She refers these losses to the illness mentioned. Her general health is now good, save for a little chronic bronchitis, and commencing fatty degeneration of the heart.

T. W. H. GARSTANG.

Dobcross, September 24th, 1883.

## CHRONIC METRITIS WITH VERSION AND FLEXION OF THE UTERUS.

SIR.—In the report of my remarks on the papers read before the Obstetric Section at Liverpool, in the JOURNAL of September 22nd, page 574, I am made to say, "There is a flexion or version without hypertrophy." It should read, "there is no version or flexion without hypertrophy." This involves the whole of the question in dispute as to the treatment by "mechanical or scientific" methods.—Yours truly,

WILLIAM DONOVAN.

Whitwick, Leicestershire, September 22nd, 1883.

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