

CEREBRO-NERVOUS DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

SIR.—Dr. Petit's commentary in to-day's BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on a paper of mine which you were good enough to publish last month, may be briefly answered. The objects of that paper were, *inter alia*, to show, 1, that certain nervous and mental disorders, traceable to uterine or ovarian causes, have recently become very prevalent; 2, that the medical superintendents of lunatic asylums, as a rule, are not likely either to recognise or to treat specially those local disorders, by the removal of which such patients may possibly be restored to mental as well as physical health; 3, that women who might be thus cured by proper treatment are now needlessly, and therefore improperly, confined as lunatics.

These propositions may not, perhaps, commend themselves to the proprietors of private asylums, or to the medical superintendents of public ones. Nevertheless, I still venture to think that the more the subject is discussed, the more evident will become the truth of the views now stated. Hence I trust that Dr. Petit will avail himself of his opportunities of investigating this question; and he will probably find that I have overestimated neither its importance nor the number of those affected by it. For, when to the 46,556 registered female lunatics in Great Britain be added those confined in Irish asylums, as well as the many non-registered women of deranged mind who are under restraint in private houses, hospitals, workhouses, prisons, etc., it will, I am sure, be found that my estimate of sixty thousand is a very low computation of the number of women actually secluded as insane in these countries.

It would be quite impossible, in the space devoted to your general correspondence in this JOURNAL, to discuss adequately all the points referred to by Dr. Petit. He must, therefore, excuse me not following him any further. I trust, however, to have another opportunity of doing so in some future communication on this subject.—I have the honour to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

THOS. MORE MADDEN.

55, Merrion Square, Dublin, November 17th, 1883.

STOVES AND GRATES.

J. M. is desirous of knowing the names of the best stoves and grates at the Smoke Abatement Exhibition. There are many excellent smoke-consuming stoves and grates. The following are a few of the firms whose grates were tested at the Smoke Abatement Exhibition, and to whom awards were made. For grates suitable for dwelling-rooms, Messrs. Clarke, Bunnett, and Co., 90, Queen Street, Cheapside for Ingram's Kafo Kapnos grate; the Coalbrookdale Company, 118, Cannon Street for the Kyrle grate; for kitcheners, T. J. Constantine, 61, Fleet Street; the Eagle Range Company, 15, Bloomsbury Street; the Radiator Range Company, 43, Cannon Street, E.C.; Messrs. Brown and Green (for their underfed kitchener), 72, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

OIL-CYST.

SIR.—E. W., aged 21, a married lady, sought, from me, relief from distressing daily headache, which she attributed to a small swelling in the temporal fossa, close upon the external angular process of the frontal bone. Fluctuation was palpable in the tumour, and, since the lady refused to permit its removal, a No. 2 exploring trocar was inserted, and from one to two drachms of fluid oil withdrawn through the cannula. Some of the fluid escaped on to a handkerchief, leaving a characteristic greasy stain, which had not evaporated after half an hour's exposure in a warm place, but which was completely removed by passing ether through the part. The greater portion of the fluid was received into a small earthenware utensil, and shortly became of the consistence and appearance of butter. Under the microscope, globules enclosed in a delicate envelope were visible, and a few blood-corpuscles, but no epithelial cells. No further examination was made of the fluid. The swelling, I was informed, had existed from birth, but had, perhaps, increased in size during the past four or five weeks. Three months after tapping no sign of the cyst was detectable, and there had been no recurrence of pain in the part since the tapping.—I am, etc., W. T. CLEGG, Liverpool.

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