

TRAPS FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

SIR,—I have been nearly thirty-eight years in my house. On an average, about three or four cases of bastard pregnancies a year used to call to inquire whether they were really so. By the aid of the admirable Rescue Society, I have been able to point a way of escape from the consequences of their folly. Now, on an average, two blooming young females call in each month, stating that they are pregnant, and require remedies, etc. I answer them by saying, "Bring a respectable married woman with you, and we will hear what you have to say." I need scarcely add they never do this. There must be a large staff of such girls, for the same woman never turns up again. I mean by "blooming females" such as are certainly not pregnant; no trace of sadness, or shame, or sickness; but bold, unabashed, as such visitors always appear to be. I write to ask some experienced members, in the plenitude of their knowledge, to tell what these women are.—Yours, etc.,

AN OLD MEMBER.

SCHOOL ON THE SOUTH COAST.

COLIN G. CAMPBELL, Uppermill, Saddleworth, offers his best thanks to the many gentlemen who have so kindly replied to his inquiry published in the *JOURNAL* of December 1st.

DETERMINATION OF SEX.

SIR,—The explanation of "R. S." on determination of sex does not elucidate the reason why, week after week, without exception, there are more males born than females. If it were as he surmises, we would expect to find that the females would be in excess some weeks, and that the general balance for the whole year would be pretty nigh even; or that some years would show an excess of females. I know a lady with five girls, and who has never given birth to a male child. There must be a more obscure reason for this than "R. S." imagines.—Yours truly,

A. T.

L.R.C.P. (Ed.) should write to the Registrar of the College in question, and we should be glad to see the answer.

CAUTION: GUY'S MAN; IMPOSTOR.

SIR,—Having received one or two letters concerning my communication, which appeared in your columns last week, touching a man professing to be a Guy's man, Wilford by name, I think it might make the matter clearer if I state that the man who called on me giving that name has called on other Guy's men with a different tale and a different name. I do not suppose his real name is Wilford (although some have read my letter as if I did), but that he assumes the names of various Guy's men resident abroad in order to give colour to his tale. He does not beg, but he does what is equivalent to it.

The letter which you were good enough to publish last week was based upon inquiries I had made of those of my friends whom "Wilford" named as personally known to him, and as having advised his calling on me; but I had not then found to what an extent the deception was pushed.

I think this notice is as much due to the real Wilford—who, I presume, is still resident abroad—as to the Guy's men who may be deceived by the variously named mendicant; and I should have sent it to you earlier, had I not thought that the pressure of other matter had excluded my first letter from your columns.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR H. JONES.

32, Sheep Street, Northampton, December 11th, 1883.

DR. BROWNLESS, MELBOURNE.—We understand that, as the papers were only sent in from the Colonial Office on Thursday last, the election will not take place until January next.

THE SHOEING OF HORSES.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to an article in a late number of the *Veterinarian* on "Horses without Shoes," by Mr. Greene, of Northampton. For the benefit of those who hesitate to try a new plan of shoeing, I will relate my experience.

For the last three years, I have entirely discarded the old form of shoes for horses. During this time, I have had in my stable five horses, for periods varying from two and a half years to six months. Their ages, at the time of purchase, have been, in three cases, six years; in one, eight; and in another, about ten. First of all, on getting a new horse, I take off the shoes, sometimes weighing one pound each or more, and substitute light Charlier steel tips weighing about two ounces, which are let into the hoof by cutting a shallow groove in the hard outer horn. These allow the heel to rest on the ground, as they only circle the hoof to about two-thirds of its extent, and permit the natural expansion to take place when the foot is in this position. For a few days, perhaps, the horse will go a little tender on his feet, especially if the frog have been previously much out away, as is usually done by blacksmiths. The horse will soon become accustomed to the new order of things; and, if carefully put on, the tips will remain on quite as long as ordinary shoes. Meanwhile, the portion of hoof which is allowed to rest on the ground is gradually becoming harder, and the whole foot is slowly filling up with callous horn, except the heel, which remains a soft pad to lessen the shock of concussion. It takes almost a year for a hoof to assume this condition; but long ere that period has elapsed, it is possible to run the horse for short intervals without shoes at all. For instance, when a steel tip drops off at the end of, perhaps, six weeks, I allow the hoof to become worn down until tenderness is shown before putting on another. Under no circumstances should the frog be touched with the knife. At the end of ten or twelve months, it is quite possible to run a horse which has made a good hoof without any shoes. This I did last summer, for about four months, in the case of a horse seven years old, which I bought a year previously. I found, however, that when the roads became muddy in the autumn, he began to go tender, due, I think, to the increased friction and consequent wear of hoof on the wet roads, as compared with the dry roads in summer. In no case have I found lameness or any other than a good result to follow this method.

This plan of shoeing seems to me to have, amongst others, the following advantages: 1. Horses do not require to be so frequently shod; in summer, at least, it is possible to run a horse without shoes. 2. Horses shod in this way never have corns or tender feet, except just at first; the legs are saved the shock of the concussion of a heavy iron shoe on a hard road; the legs do not become swollen after a long run. 3. It is impossible for a hoof of this kind to take up snow in winter, or a stone when the roads are newly macadamised. This does away with the dread of slippery or snow-covered roads and the necessity for "frosting."—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE T. B. WATTERS.

Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, November 26th, 1883.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh. Vol. II. New Series, Session 1882-83. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1883.
The Organs of Speech, and their Application in the Formation of Articulate Sounds. By Hermann von Meyer. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1883.
The Boys' Own Annual; Illustrated. London: The Leisure Hour Office, 56, Paternoster Row, E.C.
Elements of Surgical Pathology. By Augustus J. Pepper, M.B. Illustrated with Eighty-One Engravings. London, Paris, and New York: Cassell and Co., Limited. 1883.

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