

## DETERMINATION OF SEX.

SIR.—In your issue of December 8th, "R. S." while agreeing with the view I expressed in your pages some time ago, that post-menstrual impregnation would be followed by the birth of a female child (I maintaining also that pre-menstrual fertilisation is the explanation of a male birth), says: "When contact has been deferred to within a short time—say a week—before menstruation, no impregnation takes place." I hold that, in cases of pre-menstrual fertilisation, the menstruation then due will not, of course, occur. If menstruation does occur after contact (pre-menstrually), there has been no impregnation. I have the firmest faith in my theory—a faith substantiated by facts I have been able to ascertain from human histories—that the difference in sex is due simply to the greatest or least power of development exhibited by the ovum, according as it is pre-menstrually or post-menstrually fertilised.—Yours truly,  
ANDREW WILSON.  
Edinburgh Medical School, December 12th, 1883.

## CAUTION: GUY'S MAN: IMPOSTOR.

SIR,—I see by a letter in your JOURNAL that a man calling himself Wilford has been imposing on Guy's men. Some months back, a man called on me, stating that his name was Wilford, and that he knew a brother of mine practising in New Zealand. He said he had been sent by a friend, and that he had some young children in Liverpool, etc. My brother came home on a visit during the summer, and has now returned to New Zealand. While here, he found that someone had been personating him in London; and, since he has left, I have had several letters informing me that someone has been going about the country, representing himself to be my brother, and seeking assistance. I think it probable that this is the man calling himself Wilford. Whether this be the real Wilford, I cannot tell; but there was a man of that name practising in New Zealand, although my brother did not know him personally.—Yours faithfully,  
HENEAGE GIBBS.  
94, Gower Street, W.C., December 16th, 1883.

Z.—We do not know.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE name of Mr. McCarthy, of the London Hospital, was accidentally omitted from the list of Examiners in Physiology, published at page 1210 of last week's JOURNAL.

ERRATA.—In the JOURNAL of December 8th, page 1144, column 2, line 12, for "transitory and varying isolated paralysis of the abductors," read "transitory and varying paralysis of the adductors." Dr. Semon holds that paralysis of the abductors of the vocal cords is almost always characteristic of organic disease of the motor nerves of the larynx; whilst isolated neuropathic paralysis of the adductors is always characteristic of functional disorder.—In the list of members of the Royal College of Surgeons admitted Fellows of the same on December 13th, published in the JOURNAL last week, the first name was incorrectly written as "Marshall." It should have been: "F. Marsh, L.R.C.P. Lond. and L.S.A., Stafford."—In our report of the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on November 27th, we omitted to state that Dr. Harrington Sainsbury was the joint author with Dr. Sydney Ringer of the paper entitled "Investigations into the Action of the Digitalis Group."

## THE GOLD COAST COLONY.

SIR,—I beg that you will afford me space for a few words descriptive of medical service under the Colonial Office in the Gold Coast Colony. By placing in contrast the conditions under which the African army medical officers, and those under which the colonial surgeons serve, a fair estimate of the liberality or otherwise of these services may be made.

1. The African army medical officers serve twelve months on the west coast of Africa, at the expiration of which period they are entitled to twelve months' leave of absence; and any detention beyond the year of residential service is compensated by a commensurate extension of leave. The colonial medical officers also serve nominally for twelve months on the coast; but, as their leave depends practically on the will or caprice of the Governor, they are frequently detained beyond that term of service without adequate exigency. After their tour of residential service, they are entitled to six months' leave of absence, which means about four months in Europe, for two months are occupied in the wearisome and uncomfortable voyages to and from the colony, nor can they claim any extension for detention. I have no hesitation in asserting that this period of leave is too short to recruit the health of officers after twelve to eighteen months' residence in this climate.

2. The African army medical officer is sure of promotion in due time. The colonial medical officer is nearly equally sure not to obtain promotion.

3. The African army medical officer can claim a fair pension after fourteen years of nominal service, for seven years of the fourteen are spent on leave. The colonial medical officer cannot claim a pension until he is fifty-five years of age, an utterly hopeless prospect, except in cases in which he has served seven years or more, and is so incapacitated by ruined health as to be unfit for further work. In such cases, a miserable annuity is granted, of so mean amount, that his physical sufferings are rendered still more intolerable by poverty.

4. The work of the colonial medical officer necessitates far more exposure than that of his military colleague. He can never lay up in sickness with an easy mind or without inconvenience to the public service; for almost invariably he is the only medical man at, or near to, his station, whereas there are always two or more army surgeons at their stations.

5. The army medical officer is fairly well supplied with drugs, appliances, and instruments. The colonial medical officer is always stinted in, and often without, the most essential *armamenta* of his profession, and never finds his station adequately furnished.

It is, then, not to be wondered at, that the Colonial Office finds it difficult to secure capable men, nor that those in its service should be disgusted and disheartened.

Reform in the following directions is urgently called for, both in justice to the men already in the service, and in order to obtain, in future, a good class of medical officers:

a. Eight months' leave of absence after twelve months' residential service. This would mean six months in Europe.

b. Salaries to increase by triennial increments to £600 per annum.

c. The certainty of a fair pension after twelve years' service if desirous of retirement, or of a proportionately large pension if willing to serve for a longer period.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
GOLD COAST.

## KLEPTOMANIA.

MR. J. T. GONAT, of Overton, Ruabon, desires to know if there be any school or establishment where young persons affected with kleptomania are taken in.

## MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE COLONIES.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me which of the three colonies, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, would be most advisable for a medical man to start practice in, with a large family of boys? Any information on either or all of these colonies will be most acceptable.—I am, sir, yours,  
A PRACTITIONER.

APPELLANT has omitted to forward his name.

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

Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Hurley, Alford; Mr. W. T. Brook, Fareham; Mr. William Gurner, London; Mr. E. B. Stephens, Doddington; Mr. Wm. Prowse, Clifton; Mr. F. P. Paul, Liverpool; Dr. Churchill, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. F. Canton, London; Mr. M. D. Makuna, Ystrad Rhondda, South Wales; Senex, Waterbeck, Ecclefechan; Mr. T. Walker Downie, Glasgow; Mr. W. Stevens, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Haynes, Malvern; Dr. J. E. Billings, Washington; Mr. J. A. Byerley, Portsmouth; Mr. F. Marsh, Stafford; Mr. Horace Turner, Norwich; Dr. James Allan, Leeds; Dr. John Bassett, Birmingham; Mr. Hancocke Wathen, Clifton; Dr. C. Bell Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. W. H. Broadbent, London; Mr. J. Clifford Smith, London; Mr. A. T. Stewart, Waterford; Mr. F. J. Salter, Leeds; Mr. A. J. Pretty, Harleston; Mr. J. Fowler, Wakefield; Mr. G. S. Mahomed, Bournemouth; The Secretary of the Society of Arts; Dr. John Martin, Belfast; Mr. George Thomson, Oldham; Mr. A. E. Broster, Wirksworth; Dr. Glascock, Manchester; Mr. Francis Whitwell, Shrewsbury; Dr. W. H. Taylor, Anerley; Dr. Haughton, Dublin; Mr. T. Lamont Macartney, Worthen, Shropshire; Mr. P. H. Kidd, West Hartlepool; Mr. G. H. Cressey, Lowestoft; Mr. W. A. Gordon Laing, Mevagissey; Dr. D. Powell, London; Mr. J. Wright, Purley; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. P. E. Hill, Crickhowell; Mr. St. Clair B. Shadwell, Walthamstow; Mr. R. D. Keighley, Batley; Dr. W. D. Priestley, London; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. W. C. Hine, Spalding; Mr. A. A. Knight, New Cross; Mr. T. Keymond L. Quin, Belfast; Mr. W. O. Steele, Ealing; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. Brailley, London; A. C. M.; Dr. Herman, London; Mr. F. K. Pigott, Shrewsbury; Mr. R. W. Watkins, Towcester; Mr. Reston, Manchester; Mr. Brindley James, London; Mr. Churchill, London; Dr. Heneage Gibbs, London; Mr. W. North, Rome; Mr. Alexander Thomson, Huntly, Aberdeen; The Secretary of the Carlisle Microscopical Society; Dr. Rogers, London; Mr. C. J. Symonds, London; Mr. H. C. Snow, London; Dr. Moore, Dublin; Mr. R. E. Burgess, Kettering; Mr. Morton Smale, London; Mr. J. D. McCaw, Portglenone, Belfast; Mr. C. Roberts, London; Dr. G. A. Alteron, London; Sir Andrew Clark, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. A. C. Fletcher, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, Wimbledon; Messrs. Fleet and Co., London; Mr. H. I. Clarke, Broseley, Shropshire; Mr. G. Stoker, London; Dr. F. Barnes, London; Mr. H. Corby, Cork; Mr. J. H. Brown, Westgate-on-Sea; Dr. Quinlan, Dublin; Mr. W. T. Elliott, Birmingham; Dr. Arlidge, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. Watson Cheyne, London; Mr. E. Raymond, Belfast; Mr. G. Mackenzie, Belfast; Mr. J. P. Parson, Stratford-on-Avon; Dr. A. M. Anderson, Dundee; Mr. J. Innes Dunlop, Abergavenny; Mr. A. G. Bateman, London; Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey and Co., London; Mr. Hanson Evison, Milnthorpe; The Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital for Women; Mr. Andrew Wilson, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Wharton, Oldham; Mr. J. H. Stallard, New York; Mr. R. E. Burges, Kettering; Dr. B. G. Morison, London; The Secretary of the Sheffield Medico-Chirurgical Society; Dr. G. W. Potter, London; Mr. R. B. Capruck, London; Mr. F. A. Campion Fletcher, Cross Hills; etc.

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