

In consequence of a large amount of space being occupied by Presidents' addresses and the reports of Branches, we are obliged to postpone the insertion of several articles which were intended for publication.

THE NEWSPAPERS AND MEDICAL TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

We are sorry to see the first signs, in a letter to the *St. James's Gazette* from Dr. Domett Stone, of a threatening epidemic of letters to the daily papers by medical men on the medical treatment of cholera. Dr. Stone is opposed to the castor-oil treatment; but a daily paper, as he should be well aware, is not the proper place for pronouncing an opinion on a debated question of therapeutics. He knows that there are others, and men of eminence in the profession, who hold opposite opinions, but who will not descend into so unfit an arena to discuss a purely medical and professional question. He knows, too, that there are an abundance of recommended remedies and drugs, the effects of all of which are more or less disputed. To open the flood-gates of a medical discussion on the treatment of cholera in the daily papers is much to be deprecated, and the more so because the most experienced and competent practitioners will never rightly appear in such a place, and the least competent will be the most likely to rush into the lists.

We have received a copy of an extremely interesting and well arranged album containing twenty-eight photographic views of Belfast and County Antrim, published by Mr. Lawrence of Dublin. For the copy forwarded to us we are indebted to Dr. Henry O'Neill of Belfast.

GONORRHOEA AND RHEUMATISM.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of June 14th, 1884, Dr. Raiton of Manchester has recorded a case of gonorrhoea which was associated with acute rheumatism and endocarditis. That gentleman believes that the gonorrhoea in the above case bore some "intimate causal relationship" to the rheumatic affection, and he has published that case with the view of showing that the statement of Rosenstein and Senator (*i.e.*, that endocarditis does not occur in the course of gonorrhoeal rheumatism) is inaccurate. After carefully studying the facts of Dr. Raiton's case, I have come to the conclusion that the evidence which has been adduced in that case is insufficient to show that there existed a causal relationship between the gonorrhoea and the rheumatic affection. My reasons for that opinion are as follows:

1. The discharge had almost entirely ceased on August 25th, but it was not until September 20th that the patient was attacked with a rheumatic affection of the joints.

2. The fever and pain began to abate on September 25th, but the gonorrhoea did not return before October 5th. If the discharge had returned coincidentally with the subsidence of the fever and pain, I would have been more inclined to believe that there was some connection between those complaints.

3. When the purulent discharge returned on October 5th, an injection was "assiduously" used, and on the 22nd day of the same month it had almost ceased without any return of the rheumatism. If Dr. Raiton believed that the rheumatism was excited by the suppression of the gonorrhoea, why did he run the risk of bringing on another attack by the "assiduous" use of an injection?

4. The rheumatic fever rapidly yielded to the influence of the salicylate of soda. Many authorities have proved the inutility of that drug in gonorrhoeal rheumatism.—I am, sir, yours truly,
JNO. HOSACK FRASER, M.B.
9, Old Square, Birmingham.

A CASE OF TRANCE.

SIR,—The railway porters from the London Bridge station brought to Guy's Hospital one afternoon a clergyman, aged 33, whom they found in a third class carriage at London Bridge, the other occupants of the carriage calling attention to him because of his illness.

On admission, he appeared quite unconscious; his eyelids were closed and quivering. It was impossible to open the mouth. The pupils reacted to light, and the cornea were sensitive. Several happened to see him on admission, the late Dr. Hilton Fagge among them, but no one was able to form any opinion as to his malady. It was, however, noticed, that when the sister of the ward raised his arms to pull off his shirt, the arms remained raised after the shirt was removed. This at once cleared up the case, which was thus shown to be one of trance, for in whatever extraordinary position the limbs were placed, they remained until some one replaced them. A Faradic battery was fetched, and as soon as the patient heard the noise, he put up his hand as if to motion us to take the instrument away; it was, however, applied to him, and he quickly came out of his trance. It was then soon found that he was insane, and careful examination showed him to be suffering from general paralysis. In his pocket was found a post-card addressed to his wife; it was crammed with writing, the subject matter of which was an incomprehensible muddle, but seemed chiefly to refer to the religious belief of the patient and his wife's supposed infidelity. She was telegraphed for, and from her we obtained the following family history. He had been in the Church nine years, and had worked very hard in his parish and at his studies. One of his children died of hydrocephalus, and one uncle of softening of the brain. Three years ago he began to be irritable, and for the last eighteen months he has had peculiar ideas, amongst other things, that some people wanted his living, and, in order to get it, would say evil things of him. About nine months ago, he was very dejected and wanted to buy a revolver, which he said was to shoot crows. For the last eight months he has had the idea that he has become a Dissenter, and that the Queen has followed him. For the last five months he has suffered from insomnia, and has been greatly impressed with his wife's unfaithfulness to him, and has therefore wished to leave her. He has cried much at times. He has frequently taken long and apparently purposeless journeys. He only stayed in the hospital a few days, but was removed to an asylum. He was noticed to have some trembling of the lips, and also some difficulty of speech. As trance, somnambulism, and allied conditions are to form one of the subjects for consideration by the Collective Investigation Committee, it seemed that the narration of this case might prove of some interest. Although those connected with hospitals very frequently have to see patients who are insensible, and a diagnosis has to be formed without any history whatever, it is but rarely that this insensibility is due to trance.—I am, etc.,
W. HALE WHITE, M.D.

We have received further correspondence relating to the recent award of the Ethical Subcommittee of the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch; but as it appears that the subject is still *sub judice*, we refrain from publishing the letters.

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

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.; Mr. Samuel Knaggs, Huddersfield; Dr. Thomas Oliver, Durham; Dr. Edward Wells, Reading; Dr. E. Hamilton, Dublin; Dr. M. Thomas, Glasgow; Our Dublin Correspondent; Messrs. Adams and Francis, London; Messrs. L. Rose and Co., London; Dr. McCombie, London; Dr. Hodges, Belfast; Mr. E. White Wallis, London; The Lord Advocate, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. R. S. Anderson, Spennymoor; Dr. Carter, Liverpool; Dr. Robertson, Kimberley; Mr. Walter H. Brown, Leeds; Dr. de Chaumont, London; Dr. H. O'Neill, Belfast; Dr. Russell, Glasgow; Mr. John Brown, Bacup; Dr. Kerr, London; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; Mr. George E. C. Anderson, London; Mr. J. W. Batterham, Wolverhampton; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. Styrup, Shrewsbury; Dr. G. Mundie, Kingston-on-Thames; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., London; Messrs. J. H. Vail and Co., New York; Mr. W. F. Phillips, Andover; Professor Humphry, Cambridge; The Honorary Secretaries of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. F. Marsh, Stafford; Mr. Joseph Hadley, London; Mr. Norman Porritt, Huddersfield; Mr. D'Arcy B. Carter, Shipley; Dr. W. Jackson Cummins, Cork; Mr. C. H. Milburn, Durham; Mr. C. J. Evans, Northampton; Mr. Oswald A. Browne, London; Dr. H. de Varigny, Paris; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. W. George Barras, Govan; Mr. Albert Plain, Cardiff; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. J. James Ridge, Enfield; Mr. W. B. Dalby, London; Mr. Walter A. Reid, Aberdeen; Mr. James Oliver, London; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Surgeon-Major Evatt, Woolwich; Dr. W. H. Arthur, Brighton; Dr. Wallace, Greenock; Mr. G. A. D. Mackay, Greenock; Mr. George King, Calcutta; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Dr. T. Robinson, London; The Secretary of the North London Consumption Hospital, Hampstead; Mr. E. Noble Edwards, Brighton; Mr. John J. Nason, Stratford-on-Avon; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Mr. Frederick Treves, London; Mr. W. North, York; Dr. Littlejohn, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the Eastern Telegraph Co., Limited, London; Mr. W. J. Simpson, Liverpool; Mr. Graham, London; Dr. A. Macnaughton, Easdale; Mr. A. T. Schofield, London; Mr. W. L. Winterbotham, Bridgwater; Mr. Arthur T. Brown, Epping; Mr. A. G. Osborn, Dover; Mr. J. Hughes Hemming, Kimbolton; Dr. A. Carpenter, Kingston, Jamaica; Mr. A. Thomson Drake, Dublin; The Secretary of the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin; Dr. A. M. Anderson, Dundee; M.B.; The Secretary of St. Mary's Hospital; Dr. Hamilton, Aberdeen; Mr. Macnamara, London; Dr. J. W. Tripe, London; Mr. John Kellock Barton, Dublin; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. Waters, Chester; Sir Henry Thompson, London; Mr. V. Brown, Reading; Mr. R. Wyllie, Cloughton; The Secretary of the International Health Exhibition; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; The Right Hon. A. J. Mundella M.P., London; Mr. J. B. Greathead, Bodmin; Mr. C. N. Berkeley Macauley, Dakota; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Dr. H. Campbell Pope, London; Mr. W. E. Stevenson, Cambridge; Mr. H. C. Burdett, London; Dr. Dreschfeld, Manchester; Mr. J. Selve Lush, Market Lavington; Mr. H. J. Rope, Shrewsbury; Mr. H. Benham Carter, London; Mr. C. E. P. Rhodes, London; Mr. S. Spicer, London; Our Belfast Correspondent; Mr. J. Moore, London; Dr. Hardwicke, Sheffield; Dr. J. Weston Bull, West Chislehurst; Mr. R. Oakley, London; Mr. R. Mostyn Rathill, Edenbridge; Dr. MacCombie, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. W. Collins, London; Mr. J. B. Clarkson, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. Atthill, Dublin; Dr. Redfern, Belfast; Dr. Ord, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

In the Watches of Night: Poems. Vol. II. By Mrs. Horace Dobell. London: Remington and Co. 1884.
The Laws of Health. By J. C. Hutchinson, M.D., LL.D. New York: Clark and Maynard.
The Patients' Vade Mecum. By W. Knight and E. Knight. London: Chatto and Windus. 1884.
West African Hygiene. By C. S. Grant, M.D. London: E. Stanford. 1884.
Lectures on General Nursing. By Eva C. E. Liickes. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1884.

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