

FILTERS.

C. J. W. (Rochester).—We object to recommending any one particular apparatus, and would refer our correspondent to page 50 of the JOURNAL for July 5th.

ASSALIN'S MIDWIFERY FORCEPS.

SIR,—I am able to confirm "Accoucheur's" good opinion of these forceps. For thirty-five years I have used them, and, save in one case—when other instruments, in older hands, also failed to deliver—I have always found them efficient.

My experience has been a fair one, as during some part of this interval I was attached to a Lying-in Charity, and some years I have attended over 300 cases in private practice. I like them because the blades are narrow, and consequently easily applied, even with a narrow brim; they lock easily; they are firm when they are locked, and, with a napkin round the handles, a firm grip is obtained; and if such grip be maintained moderately high up, there is, to my mind, less fear of slipping than with other forceps. I cannot make a comparison (which "Accoucheur" seeks) with Simpson's long forceps, because when satisfied with results one sees no reason for changing one's usual practice. I admit that the straightness of the blades precludes their being applied in the way lately suggested in the JOURNAL by Mr. Henry Cribb, and that the usual position on the left side, at the edge of the bed, is necessary for their easy application.—Your obedient servant, D. A.

THE COMPATIBILITY OF SULPHATE OF QUININE WITH IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.

SIR,—Several communications on the above subject having lately appeared in the JOURNAL, I may perhaps be permitted to point out that these two important drugs can be neatly and efficiently combined in the same mixture by taking advantage of the solubility of the sulphate of quinine in glycerine. During the last few years I have often prescribed this combination, and have never yet heard of any unpleasant symptoms resulting from its use.—I am, etc., 272, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. R. J. HAMILL, M.D.

TESTING FOR ALBUMEN.

SIR,—In a letter published in the JOURNAL of July 5th, and headed, "An Important Point in Testing for Albumen," "C. J. M." alludes to the importance of noting the hour at which the urine is passed which is handed to the medical attendant for examination. I believe this point is one of which the importance has long been recognised. Frequently, in clinical lectures, have I heard it insisted upon that the urine passed after meals should be examined as well as the early morning urine, and cases alluded to similar to the girl mentioned by "C. J. M.," namely, where the urine passed in the middle of the day contains abundance of albumen, although that voided in the morning contains none, or only a trace.

Possibly such cases are still chiefly the property of the oral literature of our profession; for "C. J. M." writes that he can find no similar case in any of the text-books; but Dr. George Johnson, in his recently published lectures on the modes of testing for albumen and sugar in the urine, seems to consider such cases by no means rare. Diet, and drop doses of Fowler's arsenical solution, seemed to greatly benefit a case under my care, which closely resembled that related by "C. J. M."—Sincerely yours, JOHN D. HAYWARD, M.D. (Lond.). Medical Institution, Liverpool.

SIR,—Would you kindly publish the following inquiry in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.—Yours truly, JOHN HODDER, Surgeon-Major A.M.D. Newry.

"Would any medical officer recently returned from the Cape give information regarding allowances, cost of living, house-accommodation, means of educating children, and climate, in some of the larger stations of the Cape and Natal; and how children bear the climate."

MEDICAL TITLES.

SIR,—Your correspondent who is so good as to refer to me in the JOURNAL of July 12th has not had the manliness to sign his name. It is from men like this one, who throw stones from behind a hedge, that opposition comes. May we not therefore assume that our proposition has the approval of a majority of honourable, straightforward men? The great bulk of the profession cordially disapprove of this Bill as it stands, though Mr. Mundella stated that it had the approval of nineteen-twentieths. Where are they? In the right hon. gentleman's imagination.

Should a sweeping change not take place in Committee, this Bill will make matters worse than they have been, and even worse than before 1853. It appears as if the Government must deform everything they try to reform. Their utter incapacity to grasp any subject fully and fairly is something wonderful. I hope, before this reaches the printer's hands, this "monster grouping" will have been consigned to the "Parliamentary limbo."—I am, sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM DONOVAN.

SIR,—This subject seems to be perennial, and the opinions entertained appear to depend upon the qualifications possessed by the writers. I have no sympathy with those who wish to deceive the public; and, although my qualifications would induce some to dub themselves "Dr.," I have persistently declined to do so. It is, however, rather annoying when a close neighbour does style himself "Dr.," and is credited by the ignorant to possess superior qualifications. I would suggest that a general expression by the medical world be given; otherwise, the title "Doctor" will become universal, which I would regret, although it might benefit me personally.—I am, sir, yours truly, HONESTY.

SIR,—I once remonstrated with a very old friend, a well known Yorkshire solicitor, for constantly calling me "Doctor." I told him I was no more a Doctor of Medicine than he was a Doctor of Laws. He closed the discussion by saying emphatically, "I call you 'Doctor' because you are a doctor."

Many people, I believe, like this gentleman, use the prefix "Doctor" to distinguish the medical calling, as I have known rustics use the words "parson," "butcher," "tailor," to distinguish neighbours of the same name. I cannot understand how a Bachelor of Medicine, any more than a Bachelor of Divinity or Laws, can have a right to call himself "Doctor," unless in the above vulgar sense; and to me it seems as reasonable that a curate should style himself a bishop, because he has the bishop's licence to preach, as that a man should claim the title of physician because he has been licensed to practise medicine by a College of Physicians, of which he is not a member.—I remain, sir, yours obediently, JOHN F. HARTLEY, M.A., M.B. Oxon. Calphay, Ripon.

** The discussion is never ending. We should be glad to see some resolutions adopted relating to it at the Branches or General Meeting.

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Wharton and Stille's Medical Jurisprudence. Vols. I. and III. Philadelphia, U.S.A. Kay and Brother. 1882.
A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. By J. S. Bristowe, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1884.
Year-Book of the Scientific and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1884.

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