

CREMATION.

SIR,—I wrote a few weeks since to the Crematorium, Woking, but have not received an answer. Can you, in your answer to correspondents' list, inform me where I can obtain information relative to cremation, its cost, etc.—Yours truly,
106, Cannon Street Road East.

* * Although there is a crematory belonging to the Cremation Society of England at Woking, there is no office there, but letters should be addressed to Mr. W. Eassie, the Honorary Secretary of the Cremation Society of England, at 11, Argyll Street, London, W.

DETENTION OF SMALL-POX PATIENTS.

SIR,—You would much oblige me if you would inform me how long a small-pox patient must be considered infectious; or, if there be no certain knowledge on the point, what is the orthodox practice as to quarantine of convalescent small-pox patients.—Yours faithfully,
C.

* * The average duration of residence of small-pox patients in the London hospitals is six weeks, and this may be taken to represent roughly the period of infectiousness. Certainly infectiousness continues until all the scabs are separated from the body, for such scabs can be used for inoculation.

VOLUNTEER SURGEONS.

SIR,—I intend going up for the examination for proficiency as acting surgeon in the volunteer force; and I shall be greatly obliged to such of my brother members, who have passed, for information on the following points. 1. What are the subjects of examination? 2. What text-books should be consulted regarding surgery, ambulance-work, etc.? 3. I shall be glad to have any specimens of the questions.—Yours faithfully,
A. T. BRAND, M.D.
Driffield, East Yorkshire.

LIFE-ASSURANCE OFFICES AND MEDICAL FEES.

SIR,—I have received a form from a wealthy insurance company stating that the widow of a deceased member has referred the association to me for certain information, there being a considerable number of queries to be answered. I should have done so readily enough, but that there follows a sentence in italics that my fee is payable by Mrs. —, i.e., the widow.

It seems to me very improper and unfair to ask one to give information solely for the benefit and protection of the company, and be told to solicit payment from a third party. I therefore sent a civil note pointing out that, on receipt of the fee from the company, I would fill up the form. In reply, I got my own letter sent back to me with a few lines in red ink crossed over it, containing merely a reference to what the form stated about payment of fee. I returned this letter and wrote on the blank page a brief note stating that I adhered to the position I had taken up. Subsequently, I received another form endorsed "duplicate," but no other communication was made in the shape of a letter. This duplicate I returned with the reply I formerly gave. The company have had sent them a certified copy of the registrar's certificate of death, in which, of course, my name is given as medical attendant. To my extreme surprise, the company has sent a reply that they must have "a certificate by Dr. —, as medical attendant of the deceased, the usual form for which purpose is now enclosed to you," i.e., the said "Duplicate."

Will you be good enough to advise me what to do? I do not like delaying settlement of the widow's claim; and I do not like to have to fill up the form, as I resent the demand itself, and also the mode in which it is attempted to be enforced.—I am, yours truly,
PERPLEXED.

* * We have referred this letter to Dr. Sieveking, who writes as follows: Dr. Sieveking cannot understand upon what ground the "wealthy insurance company" asks for information regarding the insured after his death from the ordinary medical attendant, without admitting its responsibility to discharge the honorarium. The death-certificate having been forwarded to the company, they are bound to pay the insurance, unless they suggest fraud in the original statements with regard to the health of the deceased. But it does not appear to Dr. Sieveking that, under any circumstances, they can call upon the medical attendant for further information, except under a subpoena.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

SIR,—I have been expecting to see some authoritative ruling as to the modern treatment of cholera, or the drugs most likely to be of use in the several stages of the disease. Surely it is time that we should hear something of the modes of treatment most favourably adopted at Marseilles and Toulon. Generally, there is some drug that commends itself for acceptance; and, if there be any that has been tried in France with better results than those advocated by such writers as Morehead, Parkes, and others, it is as well we should know of them before the apparently approaching epidemic reaches us.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,
TOTTENHAM.

FRACTURE OF THE CLAVICLE FROM THE RECOIL OF A GUN.

SIR,—With regard to the case of the above nature reported by Mr. Lush in the JOURNAL, July 19th, p. 147, a similar case came under my notice a few months ago. The patient, a well built, muscular farmer, fired off a disused gun which he had loaded with small shot, for the purpose of scaring birds from his garden. The result was that the gun "kicked," producing a transverse simple fracture of the clavicle, about the middle of the bone. The fracture was treated in the usual manner, and a good result ensued.

Simple fractures of the clavicle from other than indirect causes are, as Mr. Lush mentions, rare; and fractures of that bone resulting from the cause above described are of such unfrequent occurrence, as to make a record of them perhaps not uninteresting.—I am, yours, etc.,
RICHARD PROTHERO, M.R.C.S.
Amlwch, Anglesey.

DR. GRESSWELL ON ORGANIC PHENOMENA IN A SEA VOYAGE.

SIR,—In the above report, published in the JOURNAL of July 26th, p. 169, line 54, first column, 92.25 should be 99.25, and p. 172, line 44, first column, "most of" should stand before "warm blooded."—I am, sir, yours very faithfully,
D. ASTLEY GRESSWELL.

FEEDING OF INFANTS.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. N. S. Davies, on the above subject, I beg to state that most medical men are conversant with the composition of the different kinds of milk, and yet most admit that, unless the cow's milk be freely diluted (one of milk to two or three of water) you have the usual train of bad symptoms, diarrhoea, sickness, and emaciation in early infant life. It is generally admitted that the cheesy matter of cow's milk requires to be freely diluted in early infancy.

Since writing on this subject, I have been favoured with many letters, and two or three valuable little books on the feeding of infants. I should like Mr. Davies to peruse a very valuable little work, *How to Wash, Dress, and Feed an Infant*, by Mr. William Berry of Wigan, published by James Starr, Wigan. After reading my answer to Mr. Davies's first letter, Mr. Berry kindly forwarded me a copy of this book. In Chapter V., "Artificial Feeding, continued," Dr. Berry says, "If possible, the milk should be obtained from one and the same cow; and, for the first three months of the child's life, I would advise the following to be the proportions for the bottle or 'cup,' if spoon-feeding be adopted, namely: take of cow's milk one teacupful; water, three teacupfuls; mix, boil etc. If this proportion of milk and water is too great, and it will be found so for some children, the milk will be ejected or thrown from the stomach in curds. In this case another cupful of water should be added, and two table-spoonfuls of lime-water added to each bottle when the food is put in. At three months old the proportions should be one of milk to two of water, and gradually increased, till at six months the proportions of milk and of water are equal parts. A thousand and one objections are raised to these proportions, but these are the proper proportions for agreeing with the child's delicate stomach. If a sufficient quantity at regular intervals be given, the child will be found to thrive."

I have been called in over and over again to see infants suffering from diarrhoea and sickness, caused by being fed on cow's or condensed milk too strongly mixed. On ordering their food to be properly diluted, the diarrhoea and sickness in most cases soon cease, and the children thrive.

We were always taught at Edinburgh that many of the ailments of infants were due to milk given, not sufficiently diluted. I still adhere that milk (cow's or condensed) mixed in the proportions which Mr. Davies recommends, would be found in most cases injurious.—Yours truly,
W. J. BEATTY.
Stockton-on-Tees.

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

Dr. Orange, Wokingham; Mr. J. Dix, Hull; Dr. Macdonald, Liverpool; Mr. J. Mills, Liverpool; Mr. T. Godfrey, Mansfield; Dr. G. H. Mounsey, Northampton; Mr. S. P. Plowman, London; Dr. T. Sinclair, Belfast; Professor de Chaumont, Southampton; Mr. J. G. Bride, Hull; Dr. D. C. McVail, Glasgow; Dr. F. M. Blumer, Carlisle; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Our Berlin Correspondent; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Smith, Belfast; Dr. W. B. Hadden, London; Dr. H. Campbell Pope, London; Mr. R. Benham, London; Mr. C. H. Hough, Derby; Dr. Kidd, Dublin; Dr. R. Esler, Belfast; Dr. R. W. Savage, London; Dr. H. O'Neill, Belfast; Dr. D. Drummond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. MacCombie, London; Major W. C. Ormond, Bath; Dr. G. H. Savage, London; Dr. Whitley, Belfast; Dr. G. Kirker, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Dr. G. Herschell, London; Dr. Willoughby, London; Dr. De Burgh Birch, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Baron, Clifton; The Secretary of the Army Medical School, Netley; Mr. J. H. McGowan, Dumfries; Mr. C. W. Bide, London; Dr. H. J. Ley, Birmingham; Our Dublin Correspondent; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Dr. W. Dale, Harrogate; Medicus; The Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Mr. W. T. Strugnell, London; Dr. Kitching, Enfield; Dr. Bagshawe, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. Bell, New York; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Mr. J. B. A. Morris, Caerleon; Mr. H. Sankey, Littlemore; Dr. Cranston Charles, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Dr. G. N. Pitt, London; Dr. C. A. Greaves, Derby; Mr. J. H. Crisp, Lacock; Lux; Mr. W. Houghton, Southampton; Sir William MacCormac, London; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Senex; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Our Manchester Correspondent; Dr. Hudson, Leeds; Dr. Rayner, Malvern; Dr. Oliver, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. N. Kerr, London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. Donald MacAlister, Cambridge; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. Waters, Chester; Dr. Coates, Stratford; Mr. Gurner, London; Dr. Styrax, Shrewsbury; Mr. J. Waller, London; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. F. Ashburner, Horsham; Dr. Platt, Kilburn; Mr. A. Douglas Gripper, Wellingboro'; Dr. John Livy, Bolton; Omieron, etc.

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