LATERAL SPINAL CURVATURE

Sir. - I cannot see how Mr. Keetley's challenge, whether accepted or not, can advance our knowledge of the early stage of this disease. Everyone in general practice who has paid any attention to the subject, must have seen not one, but a dozen cases of commencing curvature in which there is, as Mr. Roth says, no permanent osseous deformity, and in which he may, with the greatest confidence, promise a cure, provided the prescribed exercises are faithfully carried out. In some of these cases I have found a light jacket, made of the perforated felt, useful, but I should never think of attributing the cure to that apart from the muscular exercises.

I would suggest that, if a representative committee be appointed, it should contain a fair proportion of general practitioners, who, probably, see more of these cases in an early stage than hospital-surgeons or specialists.

The Metropolitan Counties' Branch of our Association might very well appoint such a committee at a general meeting of its members, at which the whole subject might be considered .- I am, sir, yours faithfully,

H. NELSON HARDY.

PLUBALITIES. Sir,—Can a medical practitioner, holding two appointments, namely, a dispensary and workhouse, be elected by a board of guardians as tocum tenens to another dispensary? How long can be remain as such?—I am, sir, yours obediently,

Much would depend on the size of the dispensary district, and the duties at the workhouse. Ordinarily, the Local Government Board, whether for England or Ireland, properly objects to the multiplication of offices and duties, in one medical gentleman's hands; and if it be shown in the case before us that the deputy's time ought fairly to be taken up with his own obligations, the department will not sanction such an appointment if it be brought to their knowledge.

PROPHYLAXIS OF HYDROPHOBIA.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL for July 5th you were kind enough to publish a letter from

BIR,—In the JOURNAL for July 5th you were kind enough to publish a letter from me on the treatment of persons exposed to infectious diseases by prophylactic means. Will you allow me to send you a copy of a letter just received relating to the above subject from Dr. Crawcour of New Orleans.—Yours faithfully,

Copelaw House, 49, Finchley New Road, South Hampstead, N.W.

"I have just read your article on the treatment of persons exposed to infectious diseases by prophylactic means in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 5th. In confirmation of what you state as to the possibility of hydrophobia being prevented, I would mention that I was called to see a child, aged seven years, three days after he had been bitten by a rabid dog. The bites were chiefly on the face. I put the boy on to one-fiftieth of a grain of arsenic three times daily, and this was continued for three months. A year has now elapsed, and the child is perfectly well. That the dog was rabid was proved by the history, and by the necropsy which was made by a veterinary graduate of Alfort in presence. Also another dog, bitten by the rabid one, kept under observation, died of hydrophobia three weeks after the bite.—Yours very faithfully, J. L. Crawcour, M.D.—Walter G. Walford, Esq., M.D."

DISEASE OF CHILDREN IN INDIA.

FAR AWAY; G. F. P.—About thirty years ago, the late Dr. Goodeve wrote a small work on the management of European children in India. Dr. Joseph Ewart brought out a revised edition of this work about twelve years ago; it was suitable for use by a parent away from medical aid, but we are informed by the publishers, Messrs. Thacker, that it is now out of print. More recently Dr. Birch has carried through the press a much larger edition of the same work intended for the use of medical men. This edition is published by Messrs. W. Thacker and Co. of Navyet Street London and of India and Co. of Newgate Street, London, and of India.

Cholera and its Treatment.

Sir,—The cholera is making sad have in France, and may any day break out in this country. There are many medical gentlemen who will be perplexed as to the treatment. In 1848 and 1849 many different modes of treatment were tried, and notwithstanding all the researches that have been made since, there is the treatment of the treatment where the contraction of the standard of the profession. tried, and notwithstanding all the researches that have been made since, there is no fixed plan of treatment adopted by the profession. Many eminent medical men have placed their valuable lives in danger and worked hard to find a remedy; but the only means known of preventing the disease and checking it are those adopted by Sir William Guyer Hunter and his staff in Egypt: isolation and cleanliness, pure air, good water, and especially early medical attendance and good nursing. We have been taught, by sad experience, that inpure water and filth favour allepidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases, and increase their virulence. Furting the content of 1849 I was requested to take charge of ance and good nursing. We have been taught, by sad experience, that impure water and filth favourallepidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases, and increase their virulence. During the epidemic of 1849, I was requested to take charge of those suffering from cholera and diarrhoa in the townships of Westhoughton, Over Hulton, and Lostock. These townships were very free from stagnant and filthy water; and although I was kept busy night and day for six weeks, I had only two deaths from cholera; whereas in the adjoining township of Hindley the water-supply was very deficient, and a brook which took in the sewage from houses on both sides passed through the village. The disease in this village was very virulent, and many deaths took place. Isolated cases occurred near this spot. A committee of gentlemen sat here night and day to give out blankets, food, and other necessaries. Five medical men were stationed in the village. Isolated cases of death took place in the immediate neighbourhood of the village. Other cases were treated successfully in the more healthy parts of the township, where pure air, good water, and proper attention could be had. I found that the most favourable symptom was the return of bile in the motions, and I adopted, with success, the calomel and opium treatment, in doses of two grains to one grain, or two grains to half a grain, for an adult, together with a saline mixture, properly prepared sago-gruel and brandy, toast-water, coffee, cocoa, or milk and water in equal parts boiled and allowed to cool. Hygiene is too much neglected; food and drink are quite as important, and require quite as much attention as medicine, also the immediate removal of all discharges. I believe I was instrumental in saving many lives by advice as to preparing and administering food and drink. I am convinced that good nursing is quite as necessary in cholera as is medicine. I have seen patients almost pulseless for hours, the legs and arms cold and blue with violent cramp, who, after many hours' rubbing with warm flan

ties, recovered; and some are now living who were in that state in 1849. ties, recovered; and some are now living who were in that state in 1849. "Sed unno quoque unicum in frictione pressidium est: quee si calorem in cutem evocavit, potest alicui medicinæ locum facere." (Celsus.) It has been stated that many of the deaths which take place at Toulon are from the subsequent fever; no doubt some of those cases are attributable to giving opium, without the calomel, thus checking the natural secretion from the liver. Celsus said: "Si post suppressam choleram febricula manet, alvum duci necessarium est: "The acid treatment recommended by the College of Physicians of Dublin was used in many cases in 1849 by some of my colleagues, but was abandoned, and the treatment adopted by me was resorted to with orgater success. with greater success.

Koch deserves our best thanks for the exertion he has made to discover the cholera-germ; but, after all, the only remedy against its spread is cleanliness and temperance. And the clean and healthy state of a country, district, or house, is the greatest safeguard, the most economical and the best remedy against cholera. Yours faithfully, Moses Gate, Bolton. JOHNSON MARTIN.

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