

WINTER HEALTH-RESORTS.

SIR,—I am anxious to obtain some information as to the cost of living during the winter months in Cannes, or any of the health-resorts in the Riviera. Is it possible to obtain furnished lodgings? and, if so, what would be the average cost of such? or is it necessary to live *en pension*? What kind of a coming winter are we likely to have in England? Information on the above subjects will be of great service to many medical men and their patients.—I am, sir, yours truly,
AMICUS.

DR. A. T. BRAND (Driffield) will find the details he desires of the soil, climate, and meteorological characteristics of Hastings and St. Leonard's, Eastbourne, Worthing, Ventnor, Bournemouth, Torquay, Penzance, Llandudno, Leamington, Cheltenham, and Bath, all of which are suitable for the purpose indicated, in *Where to take a Holiday*, being the holiday number of the *London Medical Record*, published by Smith, Elder, and Co., 15, Waterloo Place, S.W.

M.B., M.A., will find a valuable "Abstract of the Principal Laws affecting the Medical Profession" in the *Medical Directory*, published by Messrs. Churchill.

TREATMENT OF STAMMERING.

SIR,—I have at present under notice a bright intelligent boy, aged 13, whose sole defect is a most marked stammer, which is increasing, through, I believe, the well meant but injudicious treatment of him by his teachers. I shall feel greatly obliged if any reader can inform me of any London address where the boy could be taught to overcome his defect. The parents' means are very strictly limited.—I am, etc.,
J. F. W.

SENILE DEMENTIA.

SIR,—I am anxious to learn if there exists anywhere a home which would receive, at a moderate pension, an old lady, formerly a governess and school-mistress, now in her dotage; and whose present condition (demanding constant attention) renders necessary her removal from a clergyman's family, where she has hitherto made her home.—I am, etc.,
A MEMBER.

ERRATUM.

IN the note on Guy's Hospital in last week's JOURNAL, at page 530, column i, it was stated by error that the "Pupils' Physical Society meets on alternate Sundays." The Society meets on alternate Saturdays.

BOROGLYCERIDE IN SURGERY.

F. R. would be obliged if any reader of the JOURNAL would tell him, in an early issue, the proportions and the mode of preparing the glycerine and boric acid dressing introduced, he thinks, by one of the surgeons of Charing Cross Hospital.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS.

SIR,—I have read with interest the leading article on the alcohol question which appeared in the JOURNAL of August 23rd. It appears to me to be a lamentable display of ignorance on the part of our would-be teachers to endeavour to upset the stern logic of facts.

If drinking alcoholic liquors leads in the main to disease and shortness of life, and if, on the contrary, abstinence from their use tends to health and longevity, as the experience of insurance companies incontestably proves, surely we cannot be very injudicious or "lopsided" to have nothing to do with them as part of our daily bread.

To contend that alcohol is a food, a stimulant, and a sedative, to say the least, is exceedingly specious. Of course opium, chloral, chloroform, tobacco, or any other oxidisable narcotic would be a food in the same sense as alcohol is, and also, in certain doses, act as stimulants; and, if still further pushed, prove to be sedatives. Verily we would not insist upon the majority of mankind to indulge in these fascinating and alluring agents because the minority find them to be a source of strength, energy, and comfort temporarily to them. To lock the stable-door after the horse is stolen, or to punish the drunkards, either by incarceration, or by other degrading measures, in the hope of stamping out the evils arising from drinking, appears to me to be absurd. Nobody ever intends to be a drunkard.

Men and women often become intemperate in spite of their better judgment, without having the alcoholic heredity, which, I fear, is thought too much of. I presume drunkenness would cease if drinking intoxicating liquors were discontinued. I have known several divisional surgeons drink themselves to death. Poor fellows! they were no worse than other men, except they were tripped up in the net of drunkenness through walking in the slippery path of so called "moderation." I have yet to learn that total abstinence from all poisons as a part of our diet is not the best course for men to adopt. Granted that there are peculiar and eccentric individuals, both morally and physically, who have an apparent tolerance of evils in their own bodies as well as in their own conduct; but I think the "mental twist" is on the side of self-indulgence in the use of intoxicating liquors, which means oftentimes, unfortunately, self-destruction, the "facilis descensus" to present and eternal ruin for many of the best and most lovable of our race.

I devoutly wish it could be proved that universal drinking was safe and wise, as it is more pleasant to go with the stream than against it. But, as I said to a poor man who, in a drinking fit, contracted sloughing phagedæna, who, when the sloughing process had ceased, leaving but a vestige of the organ behind, asked me if it would grow again—I said, alas! I could hold out no such hope.

There is a time in a man's life when his will is strong enough, or his appetite for alcohol is weak enough, to abstain. There is also a time in many a man's life when his will is too weak and the craving for alcohol too impetuous for him to abstain.

Independently of apparent organic mischief, it is sad that many are the victims of uncontrollable alcoholic passion. The thralldom of alcohol is despotism indeed. But when fatty degeneration, alcoholic cirrhosis, sclerosis, fibrosis, or whatever name you call the degenerations due to that much vaunted food, stimulant and sedative, viz., the all-victorious alcohol, ensue, how about the dreadful words "too late" for tens of thousands of our fellow countrymen who are being poisoned and murdered by this treacherous monster?

Surely alcohol is not a necessity; and at the best, is a dangerous luxury, and requires great care, thought, and discrimination, lest we become slaves to its tyrannical sway. "Prevention is better than cure." The less we take of alcohol the better, and none at all will suit most men's stomachs, pockets, and characters.—Your obedient servant,
RICHARD PARAMORE, M.D., M.R.C.S., etc.,
18, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

A NOTE ON QUACKERY.

DR. G. M. DEWEY, in a paper read before the Missouri State Medical Society, says that, in spite of the fact that all practitioners in Missouri are required to pass through a college course and an examination by a State Board of Health, many of them, with these guarantees in their pockets, are veritable mountebanks. From his own personal observation, he gives many illustrations of this statement. Thus, he says: "A doctor in my county, who is a graduate of two medical colleges, and has a certificate from the Board of Health, was called to the bedside of a coloured woman supposed to be in labour. As the labour lingered, he sent to a neighbour-physician for midwifery forceps; but, before using the forceps, he concluded he had better see how matters were going. So he returned to town, and got a Sims' speculum. Well, he stayed two days with the woman, and then came home. He said the head of the child was resting on the perineum, so he thought he would give the woman and himself a little rest. He informed me that he considered this a very unique case, for, on looking at the os by the speculum, he discovered it would open and shut like a live clam in a shell. He said the child would come down, and then suddenly jump back. He asked me what I thought made the baby do that way? I told him probably the child wanted to see if breakfast was ready, or if the doctor had gone, or to see which he would use, the forceps or the speculum."

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