

ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.

SIR.—There is a letter from a member in the JOURNAL of September 20th which amply justifies my colleague, Mr. George Field's, appeal. I refer to the request for some society that would assist in the education of the orphans of medical men. This is one of the objects which the Committee of the British Medical Benevolent Fund always try to accomplish, and a large number of such orphans have been assisted by grants, by means of which education has been accomplished, and the means for a start in life given.

The list of applicants for the next meeting of committee is a long one, and I sincerely trust that Mr. Field's appeal may be answered liberally, or I fear many cases will have to be inadequately relieved for want of money.

If "Member" will write to me, I shall be happy to give him the necessary information to enable him to make an appeal.—Faithfully yours,
18, Clifton Gardens, W.

EDWARD EAST, Honorary Secretary.

BORGOLYCARIDE IN SURGERY.

THE preparation to which "P.R." refers is a substance introduced by Professor Barff, called borglyceride; it can be obtained through all wholesale chemists, or direct from the Kreochyle Company, Birkbeck Road, Leytonstone, E., who are the sole manufacturers of Barff borglyceride; it is this compound that is in use at Charing Cross Hospital. Borglyceride is a patented compound.

THE MORPHIA HABIT.

SIR.—Some time ago, I was consulted about the following puzzling case, and would be very much obliged to those of your numerous correspondents who would have the goodness to let me know their experience about similar cases. A lady, about 30 years old, very nervous, during her second pregnancy was subjected to uncontrollable vomitings. In order to stop them, many medical men were consulted, and every medicine that science and practice recommend was tried, but quite uselessly. The only means that proved a little better was the employment of morphia by subcutaneous injections; but, in order to obtain always the same good effects, it was necessary to increase the dose, until the enormous quantity of four grains per day was employed. After the parturition, which was good, it was not possible to suspend the use of the morphia; the patient could not do without it; at every attempt she was caught by convulsions and delirium in such a way, that the family would not endure them. Then, instead of the hypodermic injections, the morphia was given by mouth, and it was possible to diminish gradually the dose to one grain per day. Forty days ago, the medical man and the family decided to stop quite the use of the medicine; but during this time the patient was in a state of great suffering; she does not sleep; she wishes to die rather than live without morphia, etc. Many medicines were tried to substitute morphia, but they did not correspond. Now I should be very glad to know: 1. Is it a prudent thing to continue in the suspension of morphia? 2. May we hope to obtain a cure in this manner? 3. If we are obliged to again use morphia, can we employ the dose of half a grain per day for a long time without fearing to damage the health of the patient?

I beg your pardon for the trouble, and beg you to accept my best compliments.
—Most obliged yours,
C. RUATA, M.D.

** We may refer our correspondent to a discussion which took place at the Medical Society of London last winter, reported in our columns on December 15th, 1883, page 1,194. Experience seems to show that the only effectual treatment is the total withdrawal of the drug; a period of excitement and distress follows, and the patient is no doubt in a condition of great discomfort and some danger; but, if complete abstention is persisted in, ultimate complete recovery may be confidently anticipated. The greatest care must be taken to prevent supplies of morphia being surreptitiously obtained by the patient, who ought to be isolated from all injudicious friends, and placed under the care of skilled and trustworthy attendants. With regard to the third question, it is no doubt true that patients may take small doses of morphia for long periods without any very evident injury to their health; but it is only rarely that the small dose is adhered to; sooner or later it is increased, and the habit is maintained in secret.

AD EUNDUM DEGREES.

SIR.—Is there any British University that grants *ad eundem* degrees in medicine to those holding a Continental M.D.; as that gives a modified examination to candidates in virtue of holding the same? It seems to me that the standard of some Continental universities in medicine justifies this procedure. Is there a likelihood of Continental graduates in medicine being registered?

By kindly answering these queries, I will esteem it a favour.—Yours, etc.,
A CONTINENTAL GRADUATE IN MEDICINE.

* * 1. British universities have the power to grant *ad eundem* degrees in medicine to those already possessed of degrees of the same grade, but they rarely exercise their right in this direction. No distinction appears to be made between British and other universities in regard to such admissions, judging from the university regulations, though we do not recollect any instance of a foreign graduate having been admitted to the *ad eundem* degrees of a British university.

2. There is a likelihood of some foreign degrees in medicine being registered under the new Act; those almost certainly which grant the right to practise in their own countries; probably also others.

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

Mr. R. Johnson, London; Dr. A. B. Great-Rex, Lawton; Dr. E. G. Whittle, Brighton; Mr. De Burgh Birch, Leeds; Messrs. H. Pooley and Son, London; Mr. W. Young, London; Mr. N. F. Bettys, Woolwich; Dr. Collie, London; Mr. W. S. Rogers, London; Mr. H. W. Roberts, Lewisham; Our Rome Correspondent; Dr. R. Lee, London; Mr. B. G. Morison, London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. M. K. Robinson, Dover; Dr. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Dr. McVail, Hillhead; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. C. R. Waller, London; Dr. Huggard, London; Mr. Nunn, London; Mr. Ridley, South Shields; Mr. E. F. Lawsie, Craiglockhart; A Member; Dr. Isambard Owen, London; Messrs. J. and A. Churchill, London; Mr. R. D. Pedley, London; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; Mr. H. H. Tonkins, Bristol; Mr. Norman H. Forbes, London;

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Boys' Own Annual. London: Religious Tract Society. 1884.

The Girls' Own Annual. London: Religious Tract Society. 1884.

Notes on Materia Medica and Pharmacy. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.

A Handbook of the Diseases of the Eye. By H. R. Swanzy, A.M., M.B. With Illustrations. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.

Medical and Surgical Electricity. By G. M. Beard, A.M., M.D., and A. D. Rockwell, A.M., M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1884.

A Treatise on Physiology and Hygiene for Institution and General Readers. By J. C. Hutchinson, M.D., LL.D. New York: Clark and Maynard. 1884.

The Mouth and Teeth in Health and Disease. By J. M. Dennis, F.R.S. Grimsby: A. Gait. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co.

Elements in Modern Chemistry. By A. Wurtz. Translated and Edited by W. H. Greene, M.D. London and Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott and Co. 1884.

Fat and Blood. By S. W. Mitchell, M.D. London and Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Co. 1884.

In the Watches, and Night Poems. By Mrs. Horace Dobell. Vol. IV. London: Remington and Co. 1884.

Manual of the Dissection of the Human Body. By Luther Holden. Fifth Edition. Edited by J. Langton. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1884.

Micro-organisms and Disease. By E. Klein, M.D., F.R.S. With 108 Engravings. London: Macmillan and Co. 1884.

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