

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 161A, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 161A, Strand, W.C., London.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that all letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL should be addressed to the Editor at the office of the JOURNAL, and not to his private house.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the Manager, 161A, Strand, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication. CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

CURE OF SCORPION-STINGS.

SIR,—In the middle of May of this year, when I was staying at one of the hotels at Matheran, the hill-station and sanitarium of the town of Bombay, I was asked one evening to see a native servant, who had just been stung on the left foot by a scorpion, and was suffering very considerable pain. I found he had a distinct mark of the sting on the dorsal surface of the great toe, but very little swelling, and that he had firmly tied an handkerchief—very wisely—around the ankle, but beyond that he had no idea what to do.

As I had noticed for some days before, in the local daily papers, many remedies recommended for scorpion-stings, I again referred to them, and found that the only two which it was possible to apply were, the local application to the part stung of cocoa-nut oil, continuously, and well rubbed in, and the other, a remedy which seemed very irrational to me, and puzzled me, namely, a strong solution of common salt in water poured into the ear of the opposite side to that stung. Nevertheless, as I said before, these were the only remedies available, and as I knew they were harmless, I applied them, with the result that in about an hour the pain was much better, and he soon rapidly recovered and resumed his duties, and early next morning seemed just as well as ever. I may state that the scorpion was killed, so that there was no doubt about the nature of the injury. What produced the good results? the cocoa-nut oil, or the salt-remedy? or would nature have done so unaided, and in as short a time? No internal treatment was applied, although brandy was about to be administered about three quarters of an hour to an hour after the accident, owing to the severity of the pain, but as it soon became easier, it was withheld. Have you or any of the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL ever heard of this salt-remedy, or can you offer any explanation as to the rationale of the treatment?—Yours faithfully,

I. H. ANDERSON, Staff Surgeon R.N. Gibraltar.

WILLIAM ALLEN AND GUY'S HOSPITAL.

SIR,—You kindly inserted a note of mine some months ago, specially addressed to Guy's men, asking for information about Allen. That note put me in communication with men of the highest repute in the medical profession, who willingly gave me all the help they could. To you and them I beg to return my best thanks.

Please add to your kindness by allowing me space for a few words of explanation, for the sake of those interested in Allen. My little book is about to be issued, but the only notice of it that I have seen is so misleading that it may well escape the notice of Guy's men. The publishers, Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, have done what they list with the title, and it is referred to in an influential daily paper as "The Spitalfields Genius:—The Story of William Allen, the Quaker Philanthropist, by J. Tayle, B.A." On the title-page itself, there is no reference to Allen being a Quaker philanthropist, for my aim was to write a short and readable sketch, of a Quaker certainly, but in a perfectly unsectarian spirit; of one who was so clever that for five and twenty years he was a most popular lecturer at Guy's, as the letters of Mr. Edward Cock, late consulting surgeon there, and the only survivor of Allen's classes, sufficiently testify; and of one who was so completely the true gentleman, that he was the confidential friend of Her Majesty's father, the late Duke of Kent, the trustee of his estates, and the executor as well as administrator of his will. He was also the trusted friend of Alexander I., and "Courtier to the Duke of Wellington."

For myself, I object to being turned into a scandal appendage, or a tale that is told, as the Psalmist means it, or even a twice-told tale, whatever may be the spelling, as my name is the Norman-French for a beech-tree; and though the bark of the beech was used for writing a story upon, I am not the story, but the teller of the story, and therefore wish the Tayle to be crossed, as I subscribe myself.—Yours indebtedly,

WALTHAMSTOW.

J. FAYLE.

THE ORIGIN OF SYPHILIS.

SIR,—In a lecture on Syphilis, which appears in your last impression, Mr. Alfred Cooper remarks: "The disease known as syphilis is due to the action of a specific virus, a pathological agent, separate and distinct from every other animal poison, and never originating *de novo*. This is not the first time that I have noticed the last term of the proposition enunciated, but I have always considered it absurd. How did syphilis originate? Was it created? If not, it must have originated under certain physical conditions. Have these disappeared? or do they not recur from time to time as they did at the beginning? I am of those who believe the latter.—I am, etc.,

D. CAMPBELL BLACK.

Glasgow.

CINCHONA IN DIPSO MANIA.

P. W. S. writes: "Edina" will find the formula for cinchona in dipsomania in Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopœia, thirteenth edition, page 109.

PATENT MEDICINES.

IN reply to a communication addressed to us by Major-General Mould, we are informed, by Mr. Richard Bremridge, the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, that the patent medicine duty has recently been abolished in the United States; that in Germany the sale of proprietary medicines is not permitted; and that in France it is only permitted after the formula has been disclosed to the Academy of Medicine, and the preparation has been examined and approved by that body.

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

Dr. Huggard, London; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. J. Hall Edwards, Birmingham; Mr. E. Evans, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London; Mr. G. B. Collet, Worthing; Sir E. Lechmere, London; Dr. Batterbury, Berkhamstead; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. T. Usicume, Westonzoylead; Mr. J. Gorham, Tonbridge; Mr. E. Shackleton, London; M.B.C.S.; The Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women; Mr. Reginald B. Hoare, Birmingham; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Mr. James Crocker, Bingley; Dr. A. W. Edis, London; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. R. F. Starkie, London; Lictor; Dr. H. Campbell Pope, London; Dr. Duffield, London; Dr. Mortimer Granville, London; Mr. W. J. Mackie, Turvey; Mr. H. Lewis Jones, Chatham; Mr. R. Harris Williams, Truro; Mr. J. A. Fraser, Romford; Mr. B. G. Morison, London; Dr. Balthazar Foster, Birmingham; Dr. Watson, Manchester; Mr. J. B. Siddall, Matlock; Dr. Paul Rodet, Paris; Dr. J. Herschell, London; Dr. Allen Charles, Cookstone; Dr. Luke Armstrong, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Samuel Wilks, London; C. B. K.; Dr. J. A. Phillip, London; Mr. Victor A. Jaynes, London; Messrs. Squire and Sons, London; Dr. J. W. Hunt, London; Mr. C. C. Caleb, London; Dr. Wm. Whitelaw, Kirkintilloch; Dr. G. E. Shuttleworth, Lancaster; Mr. J. F. Briscoe, London; Dr. Champneys, London; Mr. A. de Courcy Scanlan, Netley; Mr. T. McLennan, Penpont; Dr. More Madden, Dublin; Dr. Morley Rooke, Cheltenham; Messrs. Boning and Small, London; Dr. A. Hughes Bennett, London; Mr. F. H. V. Grosholz, Townyn; Mr. R. Baillie Macbean, Annann; Dr. J. Gilpin Houseman, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. W. A. Hollis, Brighton; Dr. W. Jones, Birmingham; Mr. William Berry, Wigan; Mr. George Thomson, Oldham; Mr. R. F. Woodcock, Wigan; Mr. P. S. Brito, Aberdeen; Mr. W. Stobie, Edinburgh; The Secretary of the Chelsea Hospital for Women; Mr. Henry Meymott, Ludlow; Mr. T. Whitehead Reid, Canterbury; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. H. N. Towse, London; Mr. J. Morgan, Pontrhydy-groes; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. David Drummond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Lush, Weymouth; Dr. James Finlayson, Glasgow; Mr. Power, Portsmouth; Mr. Wm. Duncan, Ottery St. Mary; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. R. D. Pedley, London; Mr. James Merces, Bath; Dr. G. P. Rugg, London; Mr. James Dewar, Buxton; Mr. A. B. Falkland, London; Dr. Allen Duke, Folkestone; Mr. C. F. Hoffer, Bilston; Dr. J. Althaus, London; Mr. A. Evershed, London; Messrs. Brown, Gould and Co., London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Our Belfast Correspondent; Dr. R. Rentoul, Liverpool; Dr. Ewing Whittle, Liverpool; Dr. A. S. Myrtle, Harrogate; Mr. C. Welch, Brighton; Dr. Laurie Macpherson, Weymouth; Dr. J. Sinclair Coghill, Ventnor; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Thomas Duncan, Fintona, co. Tyrone; Mr. G. Worthington, Sidecup; Mr. S. Herbert Appleford, London; Mr. Alder Smith, London; Dr. H. Handford, Nottingham; Dr. J. Haddon, Hawick; Dr. C. reighton, London; Messrs. Creswick and Co., London; I. D. H.; Dr. J. Fielden Howard, Sheen; Dr. A. Kempe, Exeter; Dr. F. de Havilland Hall, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. C. Stewart, London.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- B. Bradshaw's Dictionary of Health-Resorts, etc. London: Trübner and Co. 1884.
How to Live on a Shilling a Week. By One Who has Tried It. London: J. and R. Maxwell. 1884.
Somnia Medici. By J. A. Goodchild. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1884.
A Treatise on the Science and Practice of Midwifery. By W. S. Playfair, M.D., F.R.C.P. In Two Vols. Fifth Edition. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1884.
Humphry Sandwith. By T. H. Ward. London: Cassell and Co. 1884.
Transactions of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Vol. II. Edited by W. Thomson, M.A. Dublin: Fennell and Co. 1884.
Dental Caries. By H. Sewill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S. London: Ballière, Tindall and Cox. 1884.

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