

## 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.

### TRAINING OF NURSES.

SIR,—I had hoped that a far abler pen than mine would have continued the correspondence which had been commenced in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on the subject of the training of nurses; but as I see no one has addressed you on this matter in the current number, I should like to do so.

It is a matter of great importance that every facility should be granted for the training of nurses, if both rich and poor are to be adequately provided with skilled attendance in sickness. I wish more particularly to refer to the training of ladies; and by this I mean all those women who have been so reared that they have not been accustomed to perform menial offices. There are very many such, who, from various causes, either from wishing to earn a livelihood in this way, or from a longing to do good in nursing the poor, or merely from a desire to be able (should occasion arise) to nurse any sick member of their own family, are most anxious to be thoroughly trained as nurses, and who yet, under the existing rules in many hospitals, are physically unfit to go through the required course, not because they are unequal to the fatigue of the nursing, but because in addition to this they are obliged to do work which ought to be done for them by paid servants, such as cleaning furniture and cooking utensils, cutting bread and butter, etc., which cannot possibly be brought under the head of nursing, and not even of sick-cookery.

I think most people who have considered the question are agreed that the higher the social grade from which nurses are drawn, the better it is for their patients; and, if this be granted, surely the way to induce such women to be trained is not to set them a domestic servant's work to do, but, while training them most thoroughly, and testing their fitness, both as to their mental and physical capacity most scrupulously, for the hard work of nursing the sick, to render their time of training as agreeable, and, with due consideration for the perfection of the nursing proper, as free from drudgery and unpleasantness as possible.

Probably it will be said that the expense of providing additional servants to do the rough work now done by those being trained, cannot be borne by the hospitals in question. My answer is, that the charges made for training are generally too low, that a higher fee for the instruction may well be asked, and that the balance thus obtained should be spent on providing a sufficient staff of servants, and in increasing the comforts of the nurses. The aim should be to manufacture first-rate nurses, not a combination of nurse and servant; the training should be of the highest class, both practical and theoretical, as often as possible it should be in all branches, but I would not refuse to train a lady, if she wished it, in one special branch of the art, medical, surgical, or midwifery alone.

I may add that, during the past nine months, I have met with three cases of ladies, otherwise suitable for the work of nursing, who have broken down entirely under the fatigues (the unnecessary fatigues, as I maintain) of their training. I remain, sir, obediently yours, W. H. AXFORD.

Warwick House, Clarence Parade, Southsea.

### LIABILITY TO DISEASE AT ALL AGES.

SIR,—I have an abstract of Mr. Neilson's tables regarding the morbidity, or liability to disease, at different ages; but it does not give the mean liability to disease at all ages. Can you tell me, with any approximation to accuracy, how many per cent. of all ages may be expected to be ill per annum?—Yours, etc., J. S.

"Illness" is a term of somewhat indefinite meaning. Presuming, however, that our correspondent means incapacitating illness, it may be stated that the late Dr. William Farr estimated that there are two persons constantly sick to every death that occurs, for there is an undoubtedly constant relation between the number of deaths occurring in a population and the amount of incapacitating illness.

### EAR-TUBES.

SIR,—We beg to call your attention to a slight error in the notice you published of ear-tubes in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 18th. You there say: "the prices of these tubes are 4s. 9d. and 5s., post paid." This should read thus: "The prices of these tubes are 5s. and 7s., the former being for the short tube, post paid, and the latter for the longer tubes securely packed for rail." By making this correction, you will confer a favour on  
12, Great Portland Street, W.

CRESWICK AND CO.  
A MEMBER.

### CIVIL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION asks if there be any book published which gives a list of the civil medical appointments under the patronage of Government, or where he can find a list of such appointments.

### WANTED, A CUPPER.

SIR,—Can any of your readers inform me, and the profession, if a cupper can still be found, or is cupping now to be counted amongst the lost arts? I believe that such cupping would be useful to  
CEREBRAL CONGESTION.

### THE DEADLY TRAPOT.

"WHILE good temperance people are decrying liquor," says a leading American physician, "they seldom stop to think how much harm is being done by an abuse of a beverage to which many of them are devoted. I just came from attending a case of a five-year-old babe who is ruined for life by its parents indulging in tea-drinking. The child became very nervous and dyspeptic, and they sent for me. I asked them how much tea the child drank. 'About two cups at each meal, and several between meals,' was the reply. You see," the physician continued, "they let the teapot stand on the stove all day. Thus the tannic acid is extracted, which serves to turn the linings of the stomach into leather, and brings on dyspepsia and kindred diseases. Yes, you will find hundreds of women, young girls, and aged women, and occasionally a man, who have completely ruined their nervous system by the excessive use of common tea. It would be a blessing to mankind when a temperance crusade can spare wind enough from its attack on alcohol to assail tea."

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

Dr. Walter, Manchester; Mr. James Startin, London; Mr. A. E. Tanner, Tottenham; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Samuel Mitchell, Wadsley, near Sheffield; Dr. T. Cranstoun Charles, Streatham; Dr. Willoughby, London; Mr. W. Square, Plymouth; Dr. Campbell Pope, London; Dr. A. Hughes Bennett, London; Dr. Robinson, Dunsar, Bolton; Mr. W. G. Bacot, Blandford, Dorset; Our Rome Correspondent; Dr. Anningson, Cambridge; Dr. Simpson, Edinburgh; Mr. G. W. Homan, Lichfield; Dr. Richard Neale, London; Dr. Faulkner, Stretford, Manchester; Our Berlin Correspondent; Dr. Huggard, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. E. H. Addenbrooke, Kidderminster; Dr. R. F. Starkie, London; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Dr. Barnes, London; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; The Secretary of the Pathological Society, London; Mr. T. F. Raven, Broadstairs; Dr. Newman, Stamford; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. A. Duncan, Rawal Pindi, India; Dr. Rogers, London; Dr. Charles, Cannes; Mr. G. R. Nunn, London; Mr. John M. H. Martin, Blackburn; Dr. G. G. Bantock, London; Mr. Richard Kershaw, London; Mr. Dreaper, Hulme; W. E. J. Mr. E. Flynn, Sunderland; Dr. Donald MacAlister, Cambridge; The Hon. J. G. Beane, Melbourne; Dr. Howden, Mountrose; Messrs. J. E. Stone and Co., Kidderminster; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. T. F. Tannahill, Wakefield; Mr. P. H. Walker, Prestwick; Messrs. Jeffery and Co., London; Dr. Roche, Kingstown; I. O.; Mr. W. Muir, Kirby Moorside; Mr. W. H. Axford, Southsea; Mr. Thomas Langston, London; Dr. Nicholson, Greenwich; Mr. Stanley Boyd, London; Mr. W. J. Boer, London; Mr. R. H. Wood, Rugby; Mr. D'Arcy Power, London; Messrs. J. Allen and Son, London; Dr. Fly Smith, London; Dr. Oldtmann, Maastricht; Dr. F. Conway Dyer, Dublin; Dr. Ashby, Manchester; Messrs. Pauley and Co., London; Mr. F. Shapley, Sidcup; Mr. E. A. Walker, Leamington; Mr. Harry Scott, Manchester; Dr. Rayner, Hanwell; Dr. Sayre, New York; Mr. W. P. Thornton, Canterbury; Mr. Charles Stephens, Haughley; Mr. J. B. King, Killashenden, co. Cavan; Dr. W. Ewart, London; Dr. D. Thomas, London; Dr. J. Hunt, Dalston; Mr. H. C. Alderton, Leeds; Dr. Maxwell, Bath; Mr. T. Cassan, Gainsborough; Our Birmingham Correspondent; Dr. A. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. J. H. Williams, Southport; Dr. John Robertson, Cockermouth; Dr. Chavasse, Birmingham; Dr. Stevenson, London; Dr. J. B. Finny, Dublin; Dr. E. Gordon Hull, Alford; Mr. J. Hunt, Ross; Dr. S. West, London; Mr. T. H. Moxon, Great Yarmouth; Mr. John S. Storr, London; Dr. Lawson, Hull; Dr. C. White, Snodland; Mr. C. Gell, Birmingham; Dr. J. F. Payne, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Campbell Black, Glasgow; Dr. C. R. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Mr. C. S. Middleton, London; Messrs. Creswick and Co., London; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. R. W. Parker, London; Dr. Thompson, Manchester; Dr. J. Althaus, London; Dr. Brailey, London; Our Belfast Correspondent, etc.

### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

On Diseases of the Rectum and Anus. By Harrison Cripps, F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill.

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Seven lines and under	..	..	..	..	20	8	6
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