

**"FILTERS."**

SIR,—In answer to inquiries by your correspondent "W. H. B." let him write for a pamphlet—Maignen's Patent "Filtre Rapide," 22 and 23, Great Tower Street, E.C. He will find this a rapid and perfect domestic filter—the filtering medium, "Carbo Calcis," being capable of renewal, as often as needful, by any one.

Most filters are not, as stated, self-cleansing, or even capable of being cleaned. I had one for years, and could do nothing with it in that way; so one day, in desperation, broke it open, to find mixed with the material the foulest stuff.

At the "Healtheries," I examined the filters most carefully, and none, to my mind, at all approached the standard of excellence, like that of Maignen's "Filtre Rapide."

It is largely used in the Government services—hundreds being sent out with the expedition to Egypt.

They are simple in construction, effective, and easily cleaned, and renewed at a cost of a few pence.—Yours truly,  
J. NO. WALLIS MASON.

J. G.—The first questions asked are such as should be submitted, with all details and documents, to your legal adviser. They involve complicated points of law, and depend upon an elaborate statement of facts, which have to be ascertained. The second question shall be answered next week.

**A GALLON OF LAUDANUM WEEKLY.**

SIR,—In reply to "D.'s" inquiries in the JOURNAL of December 13th, as to the quantity of laudanum that can be taken habitually, I well remember, as a boy, an old lady, living not far from Bury, one of my father's patients, who was in the habit of taking one gallon of laudanum a week for many years. She was a small, rosy faced, sprightly, old lady, and was between 80 and 90 when she died. Besides the laudanum, she was in the habit of taking no inconsiderable quantity of gin.—Yours faithfully,  
F. E. IMAGE.

St. Margaret's, Bury St. Edmund's.

DR. F.—It is always a pleasure to publish such communications; but the multiplicity of letters and papers and the limits of space impose conditions of selection from which we cannot escape, and make it impossible to publish all the communications addressed to us on particular subjects under discussion. The omission of a portion of them by no means indicates any disregard of their interest, but is often due to the necessity of not taking up more than a given space, to the exclusion of other claims. These conditions necessarily vary from week to week.

**MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.**

SIR,—That maternal sensations have any connection with foetal malformations, seems very generally to be classed with vulgar errors, or old-wifery superstition. The following case, however, is, if it be such, a strange coincidence. On June 11th, I delivered Mrs. J. of a strong, healthy boy, her second child. After it was born, she asked me if it was all right, and world-like. From the glimpse I had made of it, I assured her it was. She then asked if its big toes were right; and on looking, I discovered that it had no great toe on the right foot. When told this, she at once exclaimed she was sure of it, and then told me the following story. When she was four months pregnant, one night, she dreamed that a rat had eaten off the great toe of her right foot. She awoke screaming, and terror-struck, and alarmed the whole household; but there were no rats in the house, and no injury to her toe. Both her husband and mother, most trustworthy people, corroborated her narrative. Where the toe should be there is no cicatrix, and in all other respects the foot is the same as the left.—I am, etc.,  
JAMES BRYDON, M.D.  
Hawick.

**PATENT MEDICINES.**

SIR,—The subject of "patent medicines" is being discussed at the present time, so that perhaps a recent experience of my own may not be without interest, especially as the pages of recent JOURNALS have shown that my case is by no means unique.

I had under treatment, last week, a baby, 6 months old, with broncho-pneumonia. It progressed favourably for a few days; when, on Thursday afternoon, I was hastily summoned, as the child seemed to be dying. On my arrival, the baby showed the following symptoms. The face was pale, and covered with beads of perspiration; the lips were dark, the eyelids closed, and the pupils contracted, while the respirations occurred not more than six or eight times a minute, each one being accompanied by spasmodic forward movement of the lower jaw and elongation of the neck, such as is seen immediately before death; but, to my surprise, the pulse was fairly good and the extremities not cold. I found the child at its worst; as improvement began soon afterwards, and progressed steadily until the evening, when immediate danger was over. I subsequently found that to relieve the baby's "pain in the belly," an aunt had given it, "half a teaspoonful of cordial" that morning, and though the alarming symptoms came on very soon afterwards, I had some difficulty in persuading the mother that they were due to the "cordial," as she said her sister "always gave it to her own baby."—I am, yours, etc.,  
EDWARD PENNY, M.D. Lond.  
Pinxton, Derbyshire.

A. G. is referred to our advertising columns.

**INVALID KITCHENS FOR HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENTS.**

SIR,—Allow me to thank you for the kind approval of, and sympathy with, the objects of the Invalid Kitchens' Society expressed in the JOURNAL of December 6th. With reference to the position of the "first kitchen," I quite share your wish that it "had been opened near the London Hospital, for I was connected myself for ten years with that great institution. The reasons, however, why it was started near the Victoria Park Hospital, were mainly these. The movement originated in a wish to assist my own out-patients at that hospital; but such considerable support was obtained, that the scheme expanded to its present size. Then, again, the details of the work will need at first most close and frequent attention, which could only be given by a member of the staff of the affiliated hospital. And may I be permitted to add that the Victoria Park Hospital, with more than a million of people within a radius of a mile and a half from its gates, cannot fairly be called "in an out-of-the-way district."—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
BEDFORD FENWICK.

6, West Street, Finsbury Circus, E.C.

**HIMROD'S ASTHMA-CURE.**

SIR,—H. E. T. wishes to know the composition of Himrod's cure. In Martindale's *Extra Pharmacopoeia*, there is an excellent substitute, which I have tried, and found very useful. Dissolve two ounces of nitrate of potassium in two ounces of boiling distilled water, and add two ounces each of lobelia, stramonium leaves, and black tea well powdered; mix well and dry thoroughly. A teaspoonful burned, and the fumes inhaled, generally give immediate relief.—Yours, etc.,  
ARTHUR JAMES CAMPBELL, M.B.

**"HANSOMS" FOR MEDICAL USE.**

SIR,—Your correspondent, signing himself "Boreas," asks for information concerning the use of a Forder's Patent Hansom in a country practice.

I have driven one of the Hansoms in question for the last ten months, and shall be very glad to give "Boreas" the result of my experience, if he will communicate with me.

To satisfactorily answer the questions "Boreas" asks, would necessitate my writing at considerable length. I may, however, briefly state, that I find my Hansom most convenient, comfortable, and perfectly balanced.

I feel sure that I can prove to "Boreas" that his fears are groundless.—Yours faithfully,  
C. H. HOUGH.

Full Street, Derby.

**PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.**

SIR,—May I be permitted to record, most respectfully, my protest against the proposition "that there can be no impropriety in the committees of these dispensaries publishing a list of their officers, their addresses, and the terms on which their services may be obtained."

If it be in accordance with medical ethics that the names and addresses of medical officers of dispensaries be advertised by means of printed handbills circulated by committees, would it not be equally legitimate for them to be advertised by such handbills circulated by themselves? And if medical officers may, under this cloak, court the public favour by means of advertisements, why may not unattached practitioners in medicine do so without a cloak?

Cannot sufficient publicity be secured for these dispensaries by the announcement of terms and other advantages, reserving the names and addresses of the medical staff for the use of the members? Greater publicity than this would certainly not be tolerated by, sir, your obedient servant,

ANOTHER "LITTLE CROOKED THING THAT ASKS QUESTIONS."

R. J.—The speech in question did not, so far as we know, appear in our pages.

**A QUESTION OF GRAMMAR.**

SIR,—Whether we should write "aquam ad ʒi" or "aque ad ʒi" at the end of a prescription, has never been satisfactorily settled. The old established usage dates from such a classical age, when Latin was almost a spoken language, that an innovation made now, when classical studies are notoriously neglected, should not be accepted without a very strong justification. It cannot be denied that "aque ad ʒi" is perfectly grammatical, if we remember that there is such a thing as a "partitio genitorum," it stands in a prescription as meaning: "Take enough of water ('aque quantum sufficiat') to make up an ounce of the mixture."—Your obedient servant,  
HENRY T. WHARTON, M.A. Oxon., M.R.C.S.E.

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

Dr. A. H. H. M'Murtry, Belfast; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Maunsell, Bath; Dr. G. Buchanan, Glasgow; Dr. L. Brewer Hall, Philadelphia; Mr. W. M. Noot, London; Dr. W. McMurtry, New South Wales; Mr. Adam Sloan, Belfast; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. E. B. Callender, London; Mr. A. Ransford, junior, Bourton-on-the-Water; Dr. Joyce, Cranbrook; Mr. W. Donaldson, Llanidloes; Dr. George Beatson, Glasgow; Dr. Mercer, London; Mr. H. A. Calcraft, London; Mr. F. B. Hannan, Burnley; Dr. T. D. Savill, Hammam Rirha, Algeria; Mr. Cornelius Nicholson, Ventnor; Mr. Forster, Darlington; Dr. Brodie, Canterbury; Mr. P. Boobyer, Nottingham; Mr. J. Turner, London; Dr. Glascott, Manchester; Dr. H. M. Murray, London; Dr. Jeffrey, Chesterfield; Mr. Henry Greenway, Plymouth; Mr. Robert W. Parker, London; Dr. G. Shearer, Liverpool; Dr. Thin, London; Mr. N. C. Collier, Fulham; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. W. H. Kesteven, London; Mr. W. R. Roper, Cambridge; Dr. G. W. Balfour, Edinburgh; Mr. C. C. Whiteford, London; Messrs. W. H. Everett and Son, London; Dr. A. H. Carter, Birmingham; Dr. Koppeschaar, Leyden, Holland; Dr. J. Polak, Warsaw; Mr. Wm. Gill, London; Mr. Priestley Smith, Birmingham; Dr. Ralph Richardson, London; Mr. A. R. Anderson, Nottingham; Mr. P. Percival Whitcombe, London; Dr. P. M. Deas, Exeter; Mr. W. Simpson Frew, Dartmoor; Dr. Stryp, Shrewsbury; Captain A. P. Hobson, London; Mr. Wm. G. Galletly, Perth; Mr. J. White, London; Mr. F. Page, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. W. A. Carline, Lincoln; Dr. P. H. Mules, Bowdon, Manchester; Dr. D. C. McVail, Glasgow; Dr. L. W. Marshall, Nottingham; Mr. M. B. Shirley, Leeds; Mr. T. P. Lowe Bath; Mr. G. J. Oldham, Pontefract; Dr. Wallace, Greenock, etc.

**SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL."**

Seven lines and under	..	..	..	..	20	3	6
Each additional line	..	..	..	..	0	0	4
A whole column	..	..	..	..	1	15	0
A page	..	..	..	..	5	0	0

An average line contains eight words.

When a series of insertions of the same advertisement is ordered, a discount is made on the above scale in the following proportions, beyond which no reduction can be allowed.

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" 52 "	..	..	..	30 "

For these terms, the series must, in each case, be completed within twelve months from the date of first insertion.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than Twelve o'clock on the Wednesday preceding publication; and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association, at the West Central Post-Office, High Holborn. Small amounts may be sent in postage stamps.