

ology (two questions at least to be answered). 1. What morbid conditions affect the roots of teeth? How far are they remediable, and by what means? 2. What appearances have led to the supposition that caries of the dentine is an inflammatory affection? What are the arguments to the contrary? 3. Mention the various modes of securing artificial dentures, discussing their advantages and disadvantages. What circumstances favour or impede atmospheric adhesion?

AN ANCIENT ALCHEMIST'S LABORATORY.

In connection with the meeting of the British Association which is to be held in Birmingham, there is to be an exhibition. Messrs. Southall Brothers and Barclay are desirous of representing an ancient alchemists' laboratory. They have received most generous help from Professor Redwood, Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Lawson Tait, Messrs. Corbyn and Co., Messrs. Godfrey and Cooke, and others; and they will be greatly obliged to any gentlemen who possess old utensils, implements, fixtures, etc., if they will forward particulars in case they are disposed to lend them for the occasion. The exhibition will remain open for about six weeks, commencing in the latter part of August.

UNSATISFACTORY INQUESTS.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER writes: Your correspondent, Mr. Fred. W. Lowndes, is certainly wrong in his views as to the legality of refusing a death certificate, and communicating directly with the coroner.

The law requires the medical man to give a certificate of death in every case, "to the best of his knowledge and belief," and places upon the registrar theonus of accepting it, or referring the case to the coroner.

As I interpret the Act of Parliament, the medical man has no option whatever in the matter. It would be satisfactory to have some definite pronouncement on this point.

THE IDENTITY OF MEMBRANOUS CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

DR. LESLIE PHILLIPS (Birmingham) writes: The note of Dr. Wm. Mackie in the JOURNAL of June 19th, calls for comment. I must protest against the introduction into English medical nomenclature of the expression "membranous croup of the prepuce and glans penis." We certainly understand croup to be, in the language of the Committee of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, "a clinical term, signifying laryngeal obstruction, accompanied by membrane or not, diphtheritic or not."

In my case, the membrane was firmly adherent to the glans; it required forceps for its removal; this left an irregular bleeding surface, and the process was so painful that I twice gave chloroform before doing it. The presumption that virus was carried by the instruments from the trachea in the morning to the penis in the afternoon, is perfectly irresistible, as is also the conclusion that so-called membranous croup engorged on a wound produces diphtheria of that wound. But even this evidence of inoculation is met with the supposition that urine can produce the mischief. That this is very special pleading is clear; for while circumcision is an exceedingly common operation, both in Hebrew and Gentile races, and while the condition which Dr. Mackie assigns as the cause of the diphtheritic condition is universally operative, the complication is so exceedingly rare, that I have been able to find, in medical literature, only one case previous to my own.

ERRATUM.

In the JOURNAL of June 19th, page 1163, last line of first table in Mr. Roger Williams's article on *Siccaus of the Breast*, for "In 8 cases, recurrence 10 to 11 years after operation," read "In 1 case, recurrence, etc."

THE CASE OF DR. F. S. RIDLEY.

The following sums have been contributed and paid in to the "Ridley Fund."

£ s. d.

J. Pickett, London

H. A. Smith, Ealing

Contributions will be thankfully received by Dr. Edwin Moore, of Preston, or H. A. Smith, Esq., of Ealing. (For particulars of the case, see JOURNAL of June 26th, page 1247.)

AN APPEAL.

MR. W. F. BROOK (Fareham, Hants) writes: Will you allow me through the medium of your JOURNAL, to bring before my medical brethren the following case of distress, and aid me in getting some help.

Francis Rawle, of Titchfield, Hants, aged 70, and his wife, first came under my notice in 1880, when I engaged him as my assistant to take charge of the Titchfield district in this union.

In 1882, I resigned the appointment, and he was elected my successor. About two years ago, he had a slight stroke, which has been followed by creeping paralysis. Three months ago, he lost the use of his lower limbs to so great an extent that he was obliged to resign his appointment. He is now entirely without means or relations able to assist him, and has nothing but the union-house before him, unless something can be done. Owing to his having been so short a time in office, the guardians could only make him a grant of twenty-five guineas. He has been acting as assistant to various medical men for many years past, and I hope some of these gentlemen will see this appeal, and help me to start a fund for him. I shall be pleased to receive subscriptions, and acknowledge them through the JOURNAL if you will allow me.

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

Mr. C. E. Douglas, London; Mr. Macadam Grigor, London; Mr. F. R. Humphreys, London; A. Member; Dr. C. W. Suckling, Birmingham; Mr. G. M. Smith, Clifton, Bristol; Mr. H. A. Fotherby, London; Dr. William Stephenson, Aberdeen; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Poultton, Adelaide, South Australia; Dr. George Herschell, London; Mr. George Sturge, London; Mr. C. J. Ewart, London; Mr. R. W. Parker, London; Mr. Francis Johnston, Liverpool; Dr. Whittle, Belfast; Dr. John Eaton, Cleator Moor; Dr. E. J. Titt, London; Mr. W. V. Barre, Sescombe, Cheshire; Dr. H. W. Berg, New York; Dr. Kinkaid, Galway; Dr. Froster James, London; Dr. A. G. Lawrence, Chepstow; Dr. W. S. Paget, Liverpool; Dr. C. J.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Tonsillitis in Adolescents. Thesis for Degree of M.D. By C. Haig Brown, M.D., C.M. London: Balliere, Tindall and Cox. 1886.

Report of the President of the Board of Health, containing the photographs of persons suffering from Variola Discreta, and an account of the cases. By J. Ashburton Thompson, M.D. Sydney: T. Richards. 1886.

On Disorders of Digestion, their Consequences, and Treatment. By T. Landre Brunton, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co. 1886.

The Hygiene of the Vocal Organs; Practical Handbook for Singers and Speakers By Morell Mackenzie, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co. 1886.

John Leech's Pictures from the Collection of Mr. Punch, Part II. London: Bradbury, Agnew, and Co. 1886.

Memorials of the Craft of Surgery in England, from Materials compiled by John F. South. Edited by D'Arcy Power, with introduction by Sir James Paget, Bart, London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. (Limited). 1886.

Chemistry of the Carbon Compounds, or Organic Chemistry. By Professor von Richter; authorised Translation by Edgar F. Smith. London: Henry Kimpton. 1886.

The Private Treatment of the Insane as single patients. By Edward East, M.R.C.S., L.S.A. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

The Medical Digest. By Richard Neale, M.D. London: Smith and Co. 1886.

The Modern Treatment of Stone in the Bladder by Litholapaxy. By P. J. Trever, M.A., M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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