

# QUERIES.

## ALGERS.

A MEMBER would feel much obliged for information as to Algiers for the winter residence of a young man with laryngeal phthisis. Can any book on the subject be recommended?

## INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

NODDROG writes: I have a patient whom I have treated for some months for an incontinence of urine with belladonna, iron, and strychnine in full doses. He is twelve years old, and has suffered from the trouble since he was three years of age. At that time lithotripsy was performed. He has rather a long prepuce, which can be fully retracted. His urine is alkaline, and the last time I saw him I prescribed acids. Would circumcision cure the incontinence? Would any of your numerous readers oblige me with their advice? Incontinence never takes place during sleep.

# NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

## RISE OF TEMPERATURE AT NIGHT.

MR. CHARLES KING writes: Dr. Wallace says I have reversed the law of conservation of force. Is this so? Dr. Wallace states that "construction requires heat to be converted into chemical action, and that, therefore, temperature falls." But heat is produced by chemical action, and is not its cause. From the chemical action, we get the rise in temperature and the repair. Take the case of a patient with a fractured leg. According to Dr. Wallace, the process of reparation of bone should be accompanied by a fall in temperature; but this does not happen. It appears to me that the demands on the body in the day lessen vitality and lower the temperature. In health, this is restored in the night during sleep, without inconvenience; but the easy process is lost in disease, and the restoration, or attempted restoration, is attended with increased chemical action, restlessness, and rise of temperature.

## ARE THE EYES OF THE OFFSPRING OF THE BLIND AFFECTED? ARE THEIR MARRIAGES FRUITFUL?

MR. W. BURNS (Manchester) writes: I observe an article on the above in the JOURNAL of August 7th, by Mr. Snell, of Sheffield. With such limited statistics as Mr. Snell gives, almost anything might be proved. Several of Mr. Snell's instances might be cited against himself. For example, H., aged 64, was married at 21, and did not become blind till he was 36, yet he had no children by his first wife. He was married a second time, aged 41, and had one child. That case clearly goes against Mr. Snell; and I might maintain by it that he became fruitful through his blindness.

H., aged 42, was married four years before he became blind; yet he had no children, whereas he has had one since he lost his eyesight. That, also, goes against Mr. Snell. I could add more, but I would trespass too much on your space.

## THE CANARY ISLANDS AS A HEALTH-RESORT.

DR. E. P. PHILPOTS (Bournemouth) writes: As the recent effort to bring the climatic advantages of the Canary Islands before the public, and to found a sanatorium, was greatly stimulated by my presence there last year during a visit made to obtain information relative to the rainfall, temperature, etc., I have read with great interest your remarks in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of August 7th, and I believe them to be substantially correct. I shall be pleased to give the benefit of my experience of the Canaries, which is based upon several visits there, and a somewhat long association with them, to any of your readers to whom such information would be of use.

## VACCINATION: A CHALLENGE.

THE British Medical Association is invited, through the public press, by an anti-vaccinationist, to select a "champion" to discuss in public debate with another champion, appointed by the anti-vaccination societies of England, the merits of vaccination. We fail to see why the Association should concern itself with such discussion; it is not its duty to induce unwilling people to submit to vaccination, but rather to discuss vaccination, among other medical subjects, for the mutual information of all members of the profession. The proposal to appeal to a public audience may, and doubtless does, imply the conviction of the writer that his own views cannot be shaken, but we doubt whether the public would be the wiser when the discussion was concluded. It requires but a very brief study of the reports of the Registrar-General to satisfy the mind of any person who is open to conviction that more lives are saved by vaccination than by any other means which medical men possess for combating disease.

## CLIMATE OF DEMERARA AND BARBADOES.

DR. H. DALTON (Hartgate) writes: I do not know who your correspondent "F. A. D." is; but, as one born in county Demerara, colony of British Guiana (too often confounded with Guinea in Africa, notably by visitors to the present Colonial Exhibition), may I be permitted to correct statements which, I admit, may have crept in unintentionally? A glance at a map will show that the country known as Guiana does not look up to the island of Trinidad, sometimes called a sister colony, owing to its size. The latter is to the north of the Venezuelan Republic.

It is a mistake to say that no work has been published with regard to the general and natural history of the country since the times of Schomburgk (or Schomburgk) and Waterton. All about it, even to the classification of Fauna and Flora, was published in two volumes by a firm of then well known London publishers, in 1851. The work gave the whole history of the settlement previously to (as far as known), and from the time of, the first authenticated English visitor, Sir Walter Raleigh. The governments of the two neighbouring colonies, French and Dutch Guiana, recognising the value of the work, had portions of it translated into their languages, awarding the original writer honorary distinctions, through their consuls; for, what applied to one portion, was applicable to the whole territory. Its hidden wealth was pointed out. When, some years ago, a boundary question was mooted in Parliament, reference was made to the

work. It is out of print, and I have no vested right in it, though it was written by my father.

## TREATMENT OF INFLAMMATION OF EXTREMITIES.

MR. W. J. PENNY (Clifton) writes: In a case of compound fracture and dislocation of the ankle, in a middle-aged man of intemperate habits, in which free oozing of blood occurred, and it was difficult to introduce sufficient drainage, I tried elevation of the leg at an angle of about 60°, with the object of checking bleeding and inflammation. The elevation was gradually lessened after the second day, and the result was most gratifying.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

In the list of gentlemen who recently passed the primary examination in Anatomy and Physiology at the Royal College of Surgeons, published in the JOURNAL of July 17th, the name of Mr. J. Panting was accidentally omitted. Mr. Panting passed in both subjects.

## COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:

Dr. A. E. Bridger, London; Mr. A. Ledlie, Belfast; Dr. Withers Moore, Brighton; Mr. T. Martin, Guernsey; Mr. W. Maine, Colchester; Dr. Rentoul, Liverpool; Surgeon W. M. Craig, H.M.S. Sultan, Milford Haven; Dr. M. D. Macleod, Beverley; Dr. J. O. Affleck, Edinburgh; Mr. E. Crookshank, London; Mr. W. J. Walsham, London; Mr. J. F. Fry, Swansea; Mr. J. A. Byerley, Portsea; Mr. J. Ellis Crisp, Carsham; F.R.C.P.; Mr. R. Hagyard, Hull; Mr. A. H. Wood, London; Dr. Pye, Galway; Dr. Imulach, Liverpool; Dr. More Madden, Dublin; Dr. J. K. Fowler, London; Mr. Munro Scott, London; Mr. G. F. Hodgson, Brighton; Mr. Willoughby Furner, Brighton; Mr. B. Thompson Lowne, London; Dr. H. F. A. Goodridge, Bath; Mr. George Eastes, London; Dr. J. M. H. Martin, Blackburn; The Secretary of the Apothecaries' Company, London; Dr. C. Vise, Tunbridge Wells; Surgeon S. J. Flood, London; Dr. T. Laffan, Cashel; Mr. W. J. Walsham, London; Mr. D. W. Giffard, Dublin; Sir J. C. Browne, London; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. R. Black, Greenock; Mr. H. A. Hodson, Brighton; Mr. E. East, London; Mr. W. Gordon, Glasgow; Dr. J. Dreschfeld, Manchester; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. F. A. A. Smith, Portsea; Mr. H. Davis, London; Mr. S. J. J. Kirby, Grays; Dr. T. Oliver, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Tyson, Folkestone; Sir Dyce Duckworth, London; Dr. Campbell Clark, Bothwell; Mr. T. H. Summerhill, Rhyl; Dr. D. H. Take, Hanwell; Dr. C. S. W. Cobbold, Earlwood; Mr. H. S. Branfoot, Brighton; Mr. A. G. Francis, Cambridge; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Mr. H. Candwell, Aylesbury; Dr. J. M. Moir, Belize; Mr. W. Adams Frost, London; Mr. P. C. Gorham, Clifton; Dr. Dempsey, Belfast; Mr. J. E. Bennett, Kirkdale; Dr. L. M. Campbell, London; Miss Chapman, Edinburgh; Dr. S. Martin, London; Mr. J. C. Thresh, Manchester; Messrs. A. C. Parascho and Co., London; Mr. F. F. Perry, Lahore; Mr. W. Whitehead, Manchester; Dr. W. Macgill, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Robertson, Edinburgh; Mr. C. J. Rideal, London; Mr. E. M. Beal, London; Dr. J. N. Love, St. Louis; Messrs. Evans and Wormull, London; Dr. H. Lowther, Ventnor; Mr. O. Foster, Hitchin; Dr. E. G. Whittle, Brighton; Mr. J. J. Marsh, Ormskirk; Mr. J. Smith, London; Mr. W. Brown, Carlisle; Dr. Lowther, Ventnor; Dr. Uthoff, Brighton; Mr. H. W. Hafmann, London; Dr. Suckling, Birmingham; Dr. Sandiford, Castlemartyr, co. Cork; Dr. Macpherson, London, etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Guy's Hospital Reports. Edited by Frederick Taylor, M.D., and N. Davies-Colley, M.A., M.C. Vol. XLIII, being XXVIII of the Third Series. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

The Equine Hospital Prescriber. By J. B. and A. Gresswell. London: Baillière Tindall, and Cox. 1886.

What I Believe. By Leon Tolstoi. Translated from the Russian by C. Popoff. London: Eliot Stock. 1886.

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