ference, published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, page 471, September 4th, is intended to embrace simple preparations of new drugs, as well as the mixed combinations referred to by Mr. Greenish. The following pharmacists from various parts of the country were appointed as a committee to carry out the resolution, namely: Messrs. Abraham, Liverpool; Greenish, London; Groves, Weym ath; Maben, Hawick; Mattin, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mariniale, London; Naylor, London; Reynolds, Leeds; Syme, Liverpool; Thresh, Bux-

THE PRINCIPLE OF TRACTION-ROIS, WITH A SIMPLE SUGGESTION APPLICABLE TO

The Principle of Traction-Rois, with a Simple Suggestion applicable to any Forcers.

Dr. J. L. Portsous (Kirkcaldy) writes: I have read with much interest the article on the above subject by Professor Stephenson, of Aberdeen, in the Journal of August 28th. About seventeen years ago, whilst in charge of emigrants crossing the Western Ocean, I had the misfortune to have to attend several confinements, in very stormy weather. One case, that of a Dutch woman, required forceps. The ship rolled very much, so much that I had to tie the patient to the bunk to keep her from rolling out. After I had applied the forceps, I was in great dread of rupturing the uterus, as the motion of the vessel and the slipperiness of the deck of the temporary hospital, caused by the salt water pouring in from the hatches, made my feet constantly slide from under me. The thought struck me that, if I could allow free action to the forceps, and still command traction-power, there would be less risk of damage to the mother. Having my blunt hook beside me, I tied the handles of the blades of the forceps firmly together with spun yarn, and passed the blunt hook between the blades, so that it caught above the lock. I then used traction by seizing the shaft of the hook with the right hand, and steadying the handles of the forceps with my left. Much to my relief, I delivered the woman of a fine twelve-pound child, without injury to either mother or infant. I have frequently used the same means since, and always with success.

LIFE-ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

A POLICY-HOLDER writes: Will you kindly allow me, through the medium of your JOURNAL, to bring under the notice of medical men who hold any appointments as medical referees to assurance companies, a question of great import-

ments as medical referees to assurance companies, a question of great importance connected therewith.

The subject to which I allude is payment of extra premiums where a change of residence takes place into countries within thirty degrees north of the equatorial line. Some insurance offices make no extra charge, others a very frifing increase over the ordinary rate of insurance, whilst others charge exorbitantly. A few moments' consideration will, I think, suffice to show that, in reality, there is no additional risk to the duration of life by the change; consequently, any extra premium is unjust.

The following statistics are taken from authority converse in American which

any extra premium is unjust.

The following statistics are taken from authentic sources in America, which verify the above statement. They have been copied from Hassan's tables, published in Philadelphia, duly entered according to Act of Congress. Statistics show that, in Europe, the annual number of deaths is 1 in 42 inhabitants; but in this country (America), it is 1 in every 81. In the Gulf States, the average yearly proportion of deaths is 1 in every 63; in New England, 1 in Curry 65; in Southern, 1 to 70; in Atlantic and Mixeisappi Valley, 1 to 86; in the Western, 1 to 120.

A client of mine insured his life many years are now chost for more of the states.

Western, 1 to 120.

A client of mine insured his life many years ago, now about 50 years of age. He has everal offices to a large amount. About eight or ten years since, he left England, and went to reside abroad about 28° north of the equator. Since he left, he has paid in extra premiums not less than about £1,500. The state of his health was always good; if anything, it has been better since he has resided abroad. One of the boards of directors in which he has assured have now taken off the whole of the extra premium: one of the others only part.

residuations. One of the boards of directors in which he has assured have now taken off the whole of the extra premium; one of the others only part. The above named facts are important, and ought to be made more generally known, with a view to prevent the apparently unjust demands. The tables forcibly show that there is in reality no extra risk. On the contrary, it is quite the reverse.

I have read the report of the recent meeting of the "Medical Sickness, Annuity, and Life-Assurance Society." There were no allusions made to this question by any of the speakers. It would be well if this extra charge was abandoned by all the insurance offices.

Alcohol for the Hospital Staff.

Mr. G. Sturge (Sydenham Hill Road) writes: Many of your readers may be surprised at this question, and have forgotten the remarkable declaration of the late Dr. Babington, Sir Benjamin Brodic, and 2,000 medical men, in the year 1847, which was as follows.

"We, the undersigned, are of opinion, first, that a very large portion of human misery, including poverty, disease, and crime, is induced by the use of alcoholic or fermented liquors as beverages; secondly, that the most perfect health is compatible with total abstinence from all intoxicating beverages, whether in the form of ardent spirits, or as wine, beer, ale, porter, cider, etc.; meant is compatible with total abstinence from all intoxicating beverages, whether in the form of ardent spirits, or as wine, beer, ale, porter, cider, etc.; thirdly, that persons accustomed to use such drinks may with perfect safety discontinue their entirely, either at once, or gradually after a short time; fourthly, that total or universal abstinence from all alcoholic liquors, and beverages of all sorts, would greatly contribute to the health, the prosperity, and the happiness of the human race."

and the happiness of the human race."

At this time it was discovered that the medical staff, as well as other persons, would enjoy better health without alcoholic drink. Since that time, the evidence in favour of this opinion has accumulated. Many medical men of eminence in their profession have given similar testimony. The researches connected with life-assurance have conclusively proved that the lives of those called moderate drinkers are often shortened; and thus life-assurance societies have discovered they can assure the lives of abstainers at a lower premium than it is needful to require from the moderate drinkers.

Further, in corroboration of this opinion, certain hospitals have been established where alcohol is generally disused, even as medicine, and the medical professional p

case: typhoid fever.

In te present year, 1886, we have still further testimony in favour of the view that the hospital-staff, with mankind in general, would be better and strongs without alcohol. To prevent any mistake, I will quote the words of Sir Hen. Thompson: "It is rare now to find anyone well acquainted with hi man a ysiology, and capable of observing and appreciating the ordinary wants an ragge of life around him, who does not believe that, with few exceptions, me and women are healthier, stronger—physically, intellectually, and

morally-without alcoholic beverages than with them." (See Sir Henry

Thompson on Diet, 1886.)

From the foregoing, I think it is evident that it would be an advantage if the hospital-staff would give up the use of alcohol as a beverage. I do not wish to assume a dogmatic tone, and therefore wish that this subject should be well considered and discussed.

considered and discussed.

In addition to the benefit which the hospital-staff would derive from following the advice of Sir H. Thompson, there is another important branch of the subject in which the public are deeply concerned; that is, the very large sum which is expended on alcohol by the different hospitals. Until the hospitals render more exact accounts, and separate what is used by the patients from what is used by the hospital-staff, it will be impossible to state the exact amount. Enough is known from two hospitals who render some account, though not complete. In one hospital, it amounts to about £400, in the year 1885, although the majority of the nurses take milk instead of beer; and in the other hospital, the alcohol naed by the staff cost £218 in the year 1884.

This question naturally arises: Are the managers of our hospitals justified in using charity funds given for the use of the sick and suffering to supply alcoholic drink to the hospital-staff?

With the hope that these observations will be found worthy a place in your

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

The Secretary, Adelaide Hospital, Dublin; the Secretary, University of Dublin School of Physic; Mr. G. P. Field, London; Dr. J. D. Kelly, Mullingar: Dr. F. Donaldson, Baltimore; Dr. Charles Orton, Newcastle-under-Lyne; Dr. A. H. Jacob, Dublin; Mr. W. Sykes, Mexborough; Sir E. Lechmere, Bart, London; Dr. H. de Tatham, Bombay; Mr. J. R. Stocker, Liverpool; Mr. St. Vincent Mercier, London; Mr. J. P. Hunt, Sheerness; Mr. C. E. Paget, Kendal; Mr. T. M. Hovell, London; Dr. Dolan, Halifax; Dr. W. M. Kelly, Taunton; Dr. M. Moore, Coventry; Mr. J. Langston, junior, Newington; Dr. Taaffe, Brighton; Mr. W. Pearce, Maidenhead; Dr. J. Knox, Bakewell; Sir W. Smart, London; Mr. E. F. Scougal, Edinburgh; Dr. G. M. Thompson, Bellaghy, County Derry; Mr. D. R. McKinnon, London; Mr. E. M. Crookshauk, London; Dr. W. Newman, Stamford; Mr. J. Emerton, Leeds; Dr. G. S. Woodhead, Edinburgh; Mr. F. Stubbs, Askern; Sir W. Stokes, Dublin; Dr. R. Grieve, British Guiana; Mr. R. H. A. Jacobson, London; Dr. Myers, London; Miss J. Burnes, Salisbury; Mr. J. Holden, Preston; Mr. W. C. Steele, Ealing; Mr. J. G. Shea, Chesterfield; Mr. J. Allen, Antananarivo, Madagascar; Mr. H. T. Batchelor, Queenstown, Cape Colony; Mr. F. Churchill, London; The Manager, Mont Dore Hotel, Bournemouth; Mr. C. Aitken, St. Mawes, Cornwall; Sir Andrew Clark, Bart., M.D., Yarmouth, Isle of Wight; Mr. W. W. Barré, Ellesmere Port; Mr. P. Okell, Winsford; Dr. H. H. Vernon, Southport Mr. J. E. Jones, Cardigan; Dr. J. G. Uppleby, Port Elizabeth, South Africa; Mr. W. Armstrong, Manchester; Mr. W. A. Carline, Lincoln; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Allt, London; Messrs. T. Christy and Co., London; Dr. Jukes de Styrap, Shrewsbury; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. H. M. Morgan, Lichfield; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. E. J. S. Smith, Cobham; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. A. P. Fiddian, Cardiff; Mr. A. H. Dolman, Derby; Sir Algernon Borthwick, London; Dr. H. C. Rose, London; President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London; Mr. J. R. Liston, Wolverhampton; Mr. T. G. Rose, Woolwich; Messrs. Whittingham and Co., London; Mr. G. C. Crichton, Twickenham; Mr. H. Pratt, Brighton; Dr. Macintyre, Fort William ; The Brewers' Guardian, London ; Dr. Henry Barnes, Carlisle; Mr. G. Ricci, Rome; Dr. W. H. Day, London; Dr. C. F. Pollock, Hillhead, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Therapeutics founded upon Organopathy and Antipraxy. By William Sharp, M.D., F.R.S. London: G. Bell and Sons. 1886.

Sketch Book for Ophthalmoscopical Observations of the Fundus of the Eye. By Dr. O. Haab, of Zurich. London: Trübner and Co. 1880.

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