

one died, up to April 22nd, 1886; and of 644 other patients bitten by dogs which were certified to be rabid by the local veterinary practitioners, only 3 died, that is, only 4 patients treated by Pasteur died out of 740 bitten by rabid dogs; whilst, in London last year, out of 28 deaths, 5 children died from hydrophobia from the bite of one dog in Poplar. Dr. Dolan may, of course, say that all statistics are valueless, but until I have more to convince me to the contrary, I shall think that Pasteur's process, which is so constantly protective in the case of dogs, has been the cause of the excellent results I mention, and recommend persons bitten by rabid dogs to make use of the process.

PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA.

LOUIS FITZPATRICK, J.P., L.R.C.P. and S.Ed. (Queanbagan, N.S.W.), writes: I have frequently observed letters appearing in the columns of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL making inquiries regarding Australia as a field for medical practitioners. Most of the letters in reply warned men against embarking for the Antipodes, a few only encouraging the idea. Perhaps, Sir, a few remarks from a resident may not be without their weight.

Personally, I cannot complain, yet I feel bound, when viewing the question on broad and impartial grounds, to join my voice with those who cry "Stay at home." Certainly there yet remains many parts of the colonies where openings exist, and where there are no local medical men within twenty, thirty, or fifty miles. But the population is so scattered, and living, with keep of two or more horses, so very expensive, that all earnings are soon swamped. The thinness of the population can be the more readily understood when we consider that the entire area of New South Wales is upwards of 310,700 square miles, and the population not quite 1,000,000. (For full information regarding the Colonies, their medical appointments, institutions, etc., I recommend the study of Bruck's *Australian Medical Handbook and Directory*, 1886. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox.) The long journeys necessitate the keep of two or three horses, and the late severe seasons, droughts, etc., have raised the price of forage to a high figure.

Emigration is almost discontinued at present, and, consequently, servants of every class ask large wages. A groom, for instance, gets 25s., and, in some places, 30s. per week, with board.

The chances of payment, in return for these long journeys, are, in many cases, very uncertain. This is owing to loss of stock and failure of crops, due to the continued dry weather. The farmers, throughout the entire of this colony (N.S.W.) are in a struggling condition just now. The district in which I practise was, formerly, one of the finest agricultural portions in the country; but things have now come to such a deplorable state that all forage—oats, hay, corn—used in the town is imported principally from New Zealand.

Some few years ago, a great many young medical men, upon arriving here, derived a fair income (about £350 per annum) as travelling medical examiners for the different life insurance offices. By these means, they saw a great part of the "Bush," gained experience, and had good facilities to select a town and district for their future homes. Now, however, all this is changed. The business of life-insurance in the country is nearly done, and only a few offices are employing travelling medical men.

It is a great pity that parents will persist in sending their sons into such an expensive and overcrowded profession as medicine now undoubtedly appears to be. If men are determined to come out here, they must disabuse their minds of the idea that there are homes and lucrative appointments waiting to engage their services. If they want these things, they must pay for them. My advice, therefore, to all intending to come to Australia, is first to possess themselves with sufficient means to purchase the practices of established medical men anxious to retire or go home. Under these circumstances, they cannot go astray; the issue rests with themselves.

One word regarding the cities. "They are full." Unfortunately, at present, we possess no laws relating to the general practice of medicine. The large towns are, therefore, inundated with hordes of the most consummate charlatans from all parts of the world.

When the Government of the country creates laws to banish these pests, the practice of medicine will be on a more equal and honourable status, and the general public will be the richer in health and pocket.

Mr. Fitzpatrick encloses in his communication the words of the late Dr. F. O. Hodson, which recently appeared in the *Australasian Medical Gazette* and graphically described the hardships of bush-practice.

ERRATUM.—In Dr. Scattergood's letter on Hydrophobia (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, October 9th, p. 707) the phrase in the second line should be read "calculated to mislead many who, like himself, have not made themselves acquainted," etc. It ought also to be stated that the letter was written on September 15th, before the publication of any reply to Dr. Dolan's letter.

THE RIDLEY FUND.

MRS. RIDLEY begs to tender her most grateful thanks to all who have supported the above fund.

SURGEON writes: Relative to Dr. Bryden's successful case of strangulated inguinal hernia, treated by puncture, I should like to say that, in 1875, in the *Indian Ann. of Medical Science*, Surgeon Joshua Duke published a paper on the subject, headed "Inguinal Hernia treated by Dieulafoy's Aspirator."

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from

Mr. H. H. Latham, London; Dr. O. Scattergood, Leeds; Mr. W. Fraser, Ashburton; Mr. C. H. Wells, London; Mr. V. Jackson, Wolverhampton; Dr. Edwards, Harrold, Beds.; Dr. Turley, Whitley; Dr. W. H. H. Day, London; Mr. B. C. Manby, Dublin; Mr. H. W. Holder, Manchester; Dr. J. Johnson Bailey, Marple; M.D.; Mr. John Page Hentsch, London; Dr. A. E. Harris, Sunderland; Mr. J. Oliver, London; Mr. Arthur Pearce, Kingsbridge; Mr. F.

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

Life of Sir Robert Christison, Bart., M.D., D.C.L., LL.D. Edited by his sons. In two Volumes. Vol. II: "Memoirs." Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons. 1886.

Refraction of the Eye. By A. Stanford Morton, M.B., F.R.C.S.Ed. Third Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1886.

The Functions of the Brain. By David Ferrier, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Second Edition, re-written and enlarged. Illustrated. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1886.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Syphilis. By Tom Robinson, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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