

Islands healthy districts? And yet to these places young men are sent first, and before they are acclimated. In a paper I have just received (the *Georgetown Gazette* of July 8th) I find a young medical man has been sent to no less than ten of these fever swamps during the thirteen months he has been in the service, and now, as a pleasant wind-up to his first year's sojourn, is being charged before a jury with malpraxis, and causing the death of a patient. In the same paper the death-rate for Georgetown (certainly the healthiest part of the colony) for the month of May last is given as 170, a rate of about 55 or 60 per 1,000; of this number, 42 are from Bright's disease and 35 from phthisis, and 69 cases of "gross syphilis" were treated as patients in the outdoor department of the colonial hospital in two weeks. In the face of these figures can "H. D." maintain the healthiness of the colony? And can he say that if the sea can swamp out the colony even once a quarter, it is not, therefore, a low-lying, damp mud-flat at other times?

Apart from the question of the unhealthiness of the place, no young man, with any respect for his professional character and independence, would go out to the inevitable fault-finding and ill-treatment which he gets from his superior officers. The number of men who have been dismissed or asked to resign for mere trifles, or who have thrown up their appointments in disgust, is in huge proportion to the numbers who stay at their sickly posts; and the deaths among medical men (many, I regret to say, from suicide, and some from insanity) ought to be a solemn warning against flinging one's life away in the hope of catching a bubble. Money and fame are impossibilities. Killing work, plenty of kicks, and a forgotten grave in a mudbank are all there is to fight for in Guiana.

#### MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE following questions were asked in the written pass examination in psychological medicine, July 25-26th, 1887. (It was required that more than four of these questions should be answered):—1. Give the symptoms, bodily and mental, of general paralysis of the insane, distinguishing between the several stages through which it may run. Note the different mental forms which may characterise the invasion of the disorder. 2. With what other diseases may acute delirious mania be confounded? Give the differential diagnosis. 3. What forms of mental disorder may be classed under "alcoholic insanity?" 4. Enumerate the bodily and mental symptoms of mental stupor with melancholia. In what does it differ from mental stupor without melancholia, "primary dementia?" 5. Give the treatment (general and medical) of a case of puerperal mania. 6. In what form and dose would you prescribe hyosciamine, hyoscine hydrobromate, urethan, paraldehyde and hypnotone?

#### CORRECTION.

P.J.D. (Bengal) writes: Permit me to correct an error into which the JOURNAL fell in its report of Surgeon-General MacLean's speech before the Secretary of State for War. The name of the officer who so nobly died at Majuba was not "Langdon," as given in the JOURNAL, but "Landon"—"Arthur" Landon. I should not have troubled you at such a time but for the fact that the error has been perpetuated in a pamphlet now circulating in India. May I add how thoroughly we are all with you in the noble struggle you are now engaged in on our behalf, and how grateful every medical officer in India is for your generous efforts.

#### MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

W. writes: I presume it is within the experience of many practitioners to have been involved in cases where they have had reason to suspect that the death of a person has been contributed to by wilful neglect on the part of parents or others, and when called upon to give a certificate of death have been unable to do anything towards relieving their minds of disagreeable suspicions. I believe I have been called to more than one patient where it was evident that all that was wanted was to put me in a position to be able to give a certificate of death; where the means recommended and the medicine prescribed have not been used, and where I have had reason to suspect that the people were not concerned about the welfare of the child. I have felt when giving death-certificates in these cases that I was being used simply as a cloak for what I was inclined to call criminal neglect. These have been cases where the mother of a child has died, and the care of it has fallen as a burden on some other relation, or cases where the life of the patient has been insured, and there has been the prospect of pecuniary consolation, which may have been conducive to neglect. Is it that this is commoner where the healthy deterrent influence of the inquest is almost unknown, and must we shut our eyes and be silent?

#### INTRA-LARYNGEAL SURGERY AND MALIGNANT DISEASES OF THE LARYNX.

MR. LENNOX BROWNE has written a letter in response to Dr. Do Havilland Hall's communication of July 16th, for which we are unable to find room. Mr. Browne does not accept Dr. Semón's six cases as by any means a complete list of those in which benign laryngeal growths submitted to operation have become malignant. At the same time he desires to say that before this controversy commenced he had, in the second edition of his book, *The Throat and its Diseases*, modified the expression he used in the first, that such a degeneration occurs "frequently," and thinks the word "occasionally" would, by later experience, better represent the fact.

#### VACCINATION LANCETS.

Dr. HENRY OGLEBY (York) writes: On page 88 of JOURNAL (vol. ii. for 1885) there is a letter from Mr. William Fearnley, advising that vaccination-lancets should, before use, be heated to redness in the flame of a match, with the intention of sterilising them. I have carried out this plan for two years, with the effect of ruin to four instruments.

My instrument-maker tells me that several complaints of the same kind have reached him, and adds that the heating of a thin piece of steel such as a lancet changes it into iron, completely blunts the edge, dirties it, the charred mass being (in spite of Mr. Fearnley's opinion) impossible to wipe off, and renders it more porous, and therefore more liable to attach and retain dust and germs.

#### SUCKING A TRACHEOTOMY WOUND.

PARATUS writes: In the JOURNAL of August 6th, in the Obituary Column, reference is made to the practice of sucking with the mouth in the operation of tracheotomy. Now, without detracting in the least from the praise due to those who have done so, even at the risk of their lives, is it not time now that an instrument should be devised for that purpose, and be at hand, as essential to the operation of tracheotomy as the scalpel or the tube. Surely it is not beyond the attainment of surgical mechanics to invent such an instrument, and one which could be used as instantaneously and as efficaciously as the mouth of the operator. Even a small india-rubber ball-syringe, such as can be had at a tri-

pling cost, would answer the purpose. I can fully sympathise with the first operator who was compelled to use his mouth, not being aware of the necessity of being prepared for such a contingency, but now that this contingency may arise it behoves all that would operate to be prepared for it.

\*\* Several instruments for the purpose indicated have been invented, and some have been described in these columns, but none, so far as we are aware have come into general use.

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

Messrs. Thos. Christy and Co., Dublin; Messrs. Wilson, Hartnell, and Co., Dublin; Mr. H. A. Pittman, Llanfairfechan, N. Wales; Dr. J. Farquhar, Aldershot; Mr. J. J. Serres, Loughborough; Surgeon J. R. Mallins, Glamore Castle; Mr. H. E. Allen, London; Mr. V. Wood, London; Mr. B. Smith, Appleby; Mr. R. N. Bowes, Sandy; Mr. H. A. Martin, Surbiton; Dr. F. T. Heuston, Dublin; Dr. S. D. Wells, Plymouth; Mr. C. Wilde, Epsom; Surgeon-Major White, Barbadoes, West Indies; Dr. Danford Thomas, London; Dr. W. Hale White, London; Mrs. Heslop, Preston; Freckled; The Chairman of Committee of the London Auxiliary of the Vegetarian Society; Dr. Cross, London; Dr. B. Rake, Trinidad; Mr. E. Evans, Llanelli; Dr. V. Poulin, London; Mr. G. H. Younge, Punjab; Dr. W. H. Day, London; Dr. H. V. Carter, Bombay; Dr. H. R. Greene, Cairo; Messrs. J. B. Spence and Co., London; Mrs. Gumble, Torquay; Mr. J. H. Flather, Cambridge; Surgeon-General J. Hendley, Bentley, Hants; Mr. Bennett May, Birmingham; Mr. Lennox Browne, London; Lieutenant-Colonel W. Boyes, London; Mr. E. Dillaway, Chelmsford; Mr. A. Rae, Stonehouse; Mr. J. G. Littlewood, Walsall; One Interested in the JOURNAL; Reverend Dr. S. Haughton, Dublin; Dr. E. D. Mapother, Dublin; Mr. J. A. Jones, Aberdon; Mr. S. Wright, Clonmel; Mr. S. Bentham, London; Mr. J. A. Wilson, Glasgow; Mr. E. M. Garstans, Hough, Bolton; Mr. T. Fowler, Epping; Dr. H. Ogleby, York; Mr. K. Schall, Dublin; Dr. J. H. Warren, Boston, Massachusetts; The Secretary of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, London; Dr. J. Johnston, Bolton; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. J. Accaio Da Gama, Bombay; Mr. E. Fielding, Rochdale; Mr. A. Palmer, London; Mr. J. Paton, Edinburgh; Dr. Mickie, London; Dr. Davison, Ballinakill; Dr. E. A. Birch, Calcutta; Mr. R. Parker, Liverpool; Dr. C. Black, Glasgow; Dr. Adsett, Buxton; Mr. J. W. Corbett, London; C. H.; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. T. Holmes, London; The Secretary of the Hutton Fund, London; Mr. J. Ketchum, Dublin; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Campbell Black, Glasgow; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. J. Hayward, London; Dr. J. Hutchinson, Glasgow; Dr. A. Bottard, Havre; Dr. Ferrie, Swindon; Dr. Louis Parkes, London; Mr. W. Carmichael, Salford; Mr. R. Horsley, Craal, Fife; Dr. Bateman, London; Dr. G. S. Murray, London; Mr. J. Mitchell, Barnard Castle; Dr. T. Laffan, Cashel; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Dr. J. F. Eagleton, Claremorris, co. Mayo; Dr. Mapother, Dublin; Mr. W. H. Cripps, London; Dr. D. Noel Paton, Edinburgh; Mr. W. H. Spencer, Clifton; Mr. G. F. Morgan, Hartlepool; Mr. F. Manisty, Wrexham; Dr. Tat-ham, Salford; Dr. W. Sykes, Mexboro'; Mr. R. C. Lucas, London; Mr. J. A. Sharp, Derby, etc.

#### BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

A Manual of Physiology. By G. F. Yeo, M.D., F.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1887.

Gynaecological Operations. By Alban H. G. Doran, F.R.C.S. Illustrated. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1887.

On Abdominal Section for the Treatment of Intra-Peritoneal Injury. By Sir W. Mac Cormac, F.R.C.S. London: Ballantyne, Hanson, and Co. 1887.

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