

SPREAD-THE-LIGHT.—We are informed that to enclose the form for candidates in the JOURNAL would be contrary to the regulations of the Post Office. Some other means will probably be devised to meet the need which our correspondent points out.

PHENIX.—The Secretary of the Cremation Society of England is Mr. W. Eassie, 11, Argyll Street, Oxford Street, London, W.

TREATMENT OF FRACTURED OLECRANON.

REGINALD HORSLEY, M.B., C.M. Edin., writes: During my term as house-surgeon in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Professor Annandale operated in three cases for ununited fracture of the olecranon after ordinary treatment had been tried and failed. The operation was thus performed under strict antiseptic precautions, the warm douche of corrosive sublimate, 1 in 2,000, being used. A straight incision, similar to that for excision of the elbow-joint, having been made, the fragment of the process was found, scraped, and sutured to the end of the ulna, which was also freshened. Strong catgut was used in the case of a child, silver wire in the other two cases. After operation the limb was laid on a straight, padded, anterior splint, and fixed in position by bandages. In this position it was left undisturbed for three weeks, when rubbing and partial movement were begun, the arm being each day replaced upon the splint. A fortnight later movement was voluntarily performed with sufficient ease, the splint was removed, and the patients left the infirmary. When they returned a little later to "show themselves," movement was perfect, and the joint free from stiffness. In one case refracture occurred, and the operation was repeated. Owing probably to greater disorganisation of the parts, the wound suppurated after the operation. It was, therefore, dressed daily, the arm being carefully supported meanwhile, and bandaged to the splint during the intervals. The final result of this case was as stated. I hope this rough statement will be of use to "A Member."

NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

STERILISED VACCINATION LANCETS.

MR. WILLIAM FEARNEY writes: Dr. Henry Ogleby, of York, I think, is wrong when he says I recommended heating the lancet to "redness" in the flame of a match. I am still using the same lancet, which I can bend and twist any way from loss of its temper. The point, however, scratches through the epidermis as efficiently as ever, which is all that is required. To this moment, since adopting the practice, I have never had a single arm change its natural colour, though before I repeatedly had arms swollen, red, and angry looking. Dr. Morton, Kilburn, tells me he uses darning needles, either new ones or sterilised in a match flame. This, I can understand, is quite as good a way as using a lancet.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER.

G. J. H. E. writes: I think the *Medical Register* could be made more generally useful if, in addition to the existing alphabetical list of medical men, it also added a local list, showing the medical men living in each town or county. Medical men move about so rarely that this would involve little trouble.

A NEW TREATMENT FOR OBSTINATELY RECURRING ECZEMA.

DR. M. F. KENNA, L.R.C.S.I., etc. (Ballymore, Co. Kildare) writes: The method of treatment recommended by Dr. Crocker (*vide JOURNAL*, July 6th) was first tried, some years ago, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, by the late Dr. W. H. O'Leary, M.P., and, as my notes of several of his cases show, with great success. I have no doubt Dr. Crocker was not aware of the fact when he wrote his paper, or I am sure he would have added the above eminent surgeon the benefit of the discovery.

PERSISTENT IDIOPATHIC ERYSIPELAS.

MR. HERBERT V. RAKE, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. (Fordingbridge, Salisbury) writes: Alice W., aged 21, a strong, healthy looking girl, fully developed, one of fourteen children, has been known to my father since her birth. She had the first attack of erysipelas when 16 years old, appearing on her face. She was then in service. She seems very fairly well when at home, although living in a cottage by the side of a low-lying common; menstruation has, however, been irregular for the past two years. But as surely as she goes out to service, so surely does she, within a period of two weeks to two months from leaving home, become affected with severe idiopathic erysipelas, characterised by large watery blebs, surrounded by intense inflammation, the inflamed area being bounded by a raised edge. The tongue becomes coated, appetite fails, bowels are irregular, pulse and temperature are raised slightly. She rapidly improves under tinct. fer. perchlor. and liq. strychn. The blebs dry up, and the skin is entirely uninjured when the dead cuticle has come away. (She has a remarkably clear skin.) Except for some debility, she is now quite recovered, but the attack is always preceded by considerable anæmia, and she knows at once when an attack is coming on, the affected part being painful till the eruption appears. The face, chest, and thighs only are affected, seldom more than one of these regions in any single attack, the face most frequently.

She has now had to leave her situations nine times from no other cause than the appearance of this erysipelas. The only occasion on which she was in service without suffering from it was when she was by the seaside (Bournemouth), but the work was too hard for her there. Is it likely that anæmia is the primary cause of the eruption?

MEDICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

DR. W. MACVIE (Bootle) writes: In the JOURNAL of August 13th, "W." reflects on the suspicious death of children, and asks, "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?" I may answer "no" to the first part of his question. The "healthy deterrent," if conducted prudently, might be of some use in this direction, but there are too many interests to be considered for being effective. I infer from "W.'s" letter that he lives in a quiet country neighbourhood innocent of the struggles that are every day increasing in a town. Let "W." be thankful and play that he is not as other men are. You may refuse to sign the certificate, but the coroner will grant a certificate without any further inquiry; or if he do make an inquiry, it will be a formal one, without any medical testimony, and there the investigation ends with a verdict of "Death from natural causes," accompanied with a rider that the medical attendant deserves severe censure for refusing to grant a certificate. The profession seems helpless in this direction, unless the individual attendant cares to assume the office of Prosecuting Fiscal on his own account. My experience of the country is happy in this respect when compared with the town or "healthy deterrent."

THE HUTTON FUND.

A LETTER which has been received by us appears to render it desirable to point out that the fund which has been raised under the above name by a Committee, of which Dr. W. Howship Dickinson, Physician to St. George's Hospital, was Secretary, was for the benefit of the widow and daughters of the late Dr. Hutton, of Lowndes Street. (See JOURNAL, April 23rd, 1887, page 899.) As by some curious confusion the fund has been supposed by a correspondent to have been for the benefit of the late Mr. Hutton, who was widely known as a successful bonesetter, others may have fallen into this error.

THE CLIMATE OF BRITISH GUIANA.

H. D. writes: I have no wish to prolong any controversy with regard to the above question, which, after all, can be of little interest to the majority of your readers. At the same time, I am quite prepared to substantiate all I have written. My personal reasons for leaving the colony can have no public interest.

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

Dr. G. H. Melson, Birmingham; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Dr. P. Karkeek, Torquay; Dr. J. M. Booth, Aberdeen; Mr. R. Hodgson, London; Mr. W. J. Smyth, Shipley; Mr. A. G. Bateman, London; Mr. E. Bellamy, London; Surgeon Shirley Deakin, Meean Meer; Dr. A. Mussen, Glenavry; Mr. E. J. Archdale, Cottishall; Mr. J. F. Dell, London; Mr. A. Carter, London; Mr. G. W. Murphy, Dunstable; Dr. D. Thomas, London; Mr. G. King, London; Mr. W. Fearnley, London; Dr. V. Idelson, Berne; Dr. C. E. Abbott, Braintree; Dr. Churton, Leeds; Our Vienna Correspondent; Mr. C. S. Jeaffreson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. W. T. King, London; Mr. J. B. Baker, London; Dr. J. W. Watkins, Newton-le-Willows; Dr. A. Houlgrave, Waterloo, Liverpool; Dr. Macdougall, Carlisle; Mr. M. F. Kenna, Ballymore; J. F. W. S., London; Dr. S. Gordon, Dublin; Mr. C. Harris, Whitehaven; Dr. G. Thin, London; Dr. Platt, London; Mr. C. S. Murray, London; Mr. W. J. Stephens, Brighton; Dr. E. J. Edwards, London; Mr. C. H. Cattle, Nottingham; Mr. L. J. Pisam, Punjab; Mr. J. Limont, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. C. R. Morgan, Swansea; Dr. Pitt, London; Mr. R. W. Dyne, Oxford; Dr. Lentaigne, Dublin; Mr. T. C. Longdon, Winchester; Mr. J. P. Hunt, Chatham; Dr. F. T. Heuston, Dublin; Dr. Lafan, Cashel; Miss L. B. Henstead, London; Mr. M. Lawrie, Weymouth; Mr. S. M. Quennell, London; Mr. W. H. B. Crockwell, Manchester; Mr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Mr. K. N. Bahadhiurt, Berlin; Mr. A. B. Whitton, Abirchinder; Mr. A. Howie, Westbury; Dr. Rogers, London; Dr. R. Prichard, Cardiff; Dr. D. Noel Paton, Edinburgh; Dr. A. T. Brand, Driffield; Mr. W. Bernard, Lorne Harbour; Dr. Whitla, Belfast; Mr. E. Sergeant, Bolton; Mr. G. Foy, Dublin; Dr. C. E. Purslow, Ravenstone; Mr. J. H. Blake, Great Yarmouth; Mr. R. T. H. Bland, Beeston; Messrs. Weiss and Son, London; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Mr. J. Bellamy, London; Dr. A. Davidson, Liverpool; Mr. S. M. Quennell, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Sir H. Pitman, London; Dr. C. Black, Glasgow; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Mr. W. Maevie, Bootle; Dr. E. M. Cosgrave, Dublin; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mrs. J. Foggo, Calcutta; Sir W. Guyer Hunter, London; Mr. T. M. Evans, Guernsey; Messrs. Newbery and Son, London; Mr. W. H. Spurgin, Maryport; Mr. F. E. H. Daunt, Grays; Mr. H. G. Terry, Bath; Mr. H. M. H. Martin, Arnheim; Mr. S. Snell, Sheffield; Dr. Bowman, Manchester; Mr. M. J. Molony, Arklow; Dr. H. Dalton, Harrogate; Messrs. T. Christy and Co., London; Mr. F. W. E. Green, London; Mr. A. G. Bateman, London; Mr. W. Whysall, Grantham; Mr. W. Anderson, London; Dr. A. E. Muncester, Ampt-hill; Mr. J. A. Byerley, Portsea; Mr. Robertson, Edinburgh; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. J. Lewtas, London; Judex; Mr. W. Ball, London; Dr. J. J. Ridge, London; Mr. H. Apperby, London; Mr. F. H. Moore, Anstey, Leicester; Dr. H. G. Brooke, Manchester; Dr. W. R. McKinnel, Heaton Chapel; Mr. T. H. Bickerton, Liverpool; Mrs. M. P. McLean, Heavitree; Mr. F. Stanley Wood, Pontypool, etc.

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