

BEST REMEDY FOR ASTHMA.

DR. WM. WOODWARD (Worcester) writes: In the *Journal* of September 24th, 1884, is given a prescription for asthma from Mr. Beverley, of Scarborough, who invites replies as to its merit. I have tried most remedies known, including, of course, the well known and most valuable Himrod's powder, and find as much, if not more, benefit from Mr. Beverley's than any. The formulae generally given for a substitute for Himrod's powder in other numbers of your *JOURNAL*, and also in Martindale's *Extra Pharmacopœia*, form but a very poor imitation of it, containing no Indian hemp or eucalyptus oil, principal ingredients in Mr. Beverley's. It has, too, an advantage over Himrod's powder (to say nothing of less cost, and not being a secret remedy) in requiring to be lighted merely in the room near the bed, thus doing away with the suffocating effects of inhalation. Both, however, will be found to be invaluable in the distressing attacks of hay and other kinds of asthma; and your kind insertion of this may be the means of giving relief to many a sufferer. The following is the form as given in your edition of September 27th, 1884. Take of datura tatula, stramonii, cannabis indica, lobelia inflata, aa 3ij; mix with potassii nit. pulv., 3ij, and ol. eucalypti, 3 ss; burn a teaspoonful in bedroom, and repeat if necessary. (Put on white paper in a saucer it burns well.) I may add that it is prepared very carefully by Mr. Virgo, chemist of this city. Of course, the patient must observe rules of diet, going to bed on an empty stomach, lying with the chest raised, keeping the feet warm, and such like, without which few remedies will be of any avail.

S. B. strongly recommends the following preparation: Folie stramonii, 3iv; folie lobellie, folie belladonnæ, aa 3j, to be thoroughly ground in a mill; potassi nitratis, 3ij; tinct. opii, 3ij. Dissolve the saltpetre in the smallest possible quantity of hot water, and add the tincture of opium. Thoroughly saturate the mixed and ground leaves with this solution, and dry at a gentle heat. When dry mix well with thoroughly pulverised camphor, and preserve in a stoppered bottle.

THE ARCHITECTURE AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE HUMAN BRAIN.

MR. A. C. DUTT, B.A., M.B. Cantab, Resident Medical Officer Morpeth Dispensary, writes: Taking up an old number of *Harper's Magazine* (March, 1885), I found an article on the above subject by Dr. Ambrose L. Ranney, which is marked by much clearness of language and perspicuity of detail. Students regard the brain as a *bête noire*, and the text-books bristling with long Latin names and obscure distinctions seem to justify the charge of "want of lucidity" against English writers. The course of the nerve-strands which make up the white substance of the brain has been thought by some to be an incomprehensible study. But it is not so. The nerve-fibres may be divided into five sets:

1. Associating fibres: these connect the cells of the different areas of the cortex. They do not cross the mesial line of the skull.
2. Commissural fibres: these join the cortical cells of the homologous parts of the two hemispheres.
3. Peduncular fibres: passing from each hemisphere to the spinal cord.
4. Fibres of special sense: associated with the organs of special sense.
5. The fornix: connecting the cortical cells of the temporal lobe to the optic thalamus.

The requirements of the brain are thus summed up: (1) change of work occasionally; (2) eight hours' sleep; (3) exercise and good food; (4) sunlight and pure air; (5) abstaining from, or very moderate use of, tobacco and alcohol; (6) abstaining from habitual use of drugs, such as chloral or opium.

THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

A STUDENT OF THE OLD CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AND GRADUATE OF THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND writes: I am sure none of our graduates will grudge the compliments so lavishly bestowed by the orators of the Association on the University seated at Trinity College, Dublin. I would like, however, to point out that Dr. Banks made a grievous omission when speaking of the necessity of an arts degree for medical men in not showing that the Royal requires for medical graduation the same amount of "arts" proper as Cambridge (more, in fact, as the "previous" at Cambridge suffices for matriculation), namely, a year's study after matriculation and a "previous" arts examination. The Royal University deserved, I think, due recognition of this fact. For years—perhaps generations—the oldest institution will maintain its superior prestige simply on account of its long possession of the field. May it always worthily do so. I think it, therefore, the more incumbent on generous-minded men who ought to be conversant with the fact that the Royal University was founded as an instalment of justice to Roman Catholics who prefer not to enter Trinity College, to duly recognise on fit occasions (such as the late dinner to the Association within the walls of the University) the real merits for which the "younger sister" claims some share of public approbation. Trinity College follows the suit of Oxford in requiring a complete B.A. The Royal University, with Cambridge, allows students to "go out" in medicine, having only followed "arts" a certain distance. These facts ought to be made more widely known, as (*teste* Sir W. Foster's mistake) the Royal University is still identified with the late Queen's University, though its requirements and curriculum differ most widely.

PLACE AUX DAMES.

DEBE (Manchester) writes: I cannot help thinking that *place aux dames* on page 368 of the *Journal* for August 13th is somewhat misplaced. *Place aux dames* by all means to ladies proper, and in their proper sphere; but when ladies prefer to choose to enter the medical profession, they lose their high and honoured prerogative, they become practically medical men, and are entitled only to the ordinary professional courtesies. The position of a female or she medical man in any list of practitioners ought not to be determined by her sex alone, but by her individual and professional qualifications, and she (is this the right pronoun?) ought to take rank accordingly. No other ground of distinction should be recognised. If, for instance, a medical woman conceive a taste for embryology, and bring forth facts not previously known, let her by all means have the fullest credit for her labours, and let her then take deserved precedence of her less distinguished colleagues, but not otherwise.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE AND LONGEVITY.

DR. J. JAMES RIDGE (Enfield) writes: In your report of the temperance breakfast at Dublin an error has crept into the account which it is important to correct. I am made to say that there were 390 members of our Association, and as many more who do not prescribe alcohol. I said "who do not take alcohol." Most of our members prescribe alcohol when they consider it the best drug to use; our only condition of membership is *persona abstinentia*, and we number 360.

While writing, I should like to ask Professor Humphrey why, in his recent report on the influence of the habits of the old on the duration of life, he has omitted all reference to the influence of alcohol? Being away from home, I have not the figures to refer to, but I am under the impression that about 20 per cent. were total abstainers. Since this is a very much greater proportion of abstainers than among the general adult population of the last fifty years, does it not indicate the influence of total abstinence in promoting longevity, or, in other words, the great influence of alcohol in cutting it short?

BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

M.B.M.A. writes: A patient of mine, a medical man under 30, has been and is suffering now from right hemiplegia, with aphasia, owing to syphilitic disease of arteries, with thrombosis. He can now get about fairly well with a stick, but has some secondary contraction of his right arm and leg, and his mind is not in as good a state as I could wish, probably secondary softening.

1. Is there a paying institution of any kind that would take him, and what would be probable cost per annum?

2. Supposing him to be in a private family, what would be the expenses—about?

He unfortunately is not well off, and his wife wishes to leave him in England, whilst she goes to her home in Demerara, and, if his mind improves, to have him out afterwards.

. Apply to Bethlem Hospital, St. George's Road, S.E., where he may be admitted at £2 2s. a week. Charge in private family much higher.

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

Dr. J. A. Coveney, Prestwich; Mr. W. Mylins, Bexhill; Mr. C. H. Phillips, Hanley; Dr. W. Pogson, Leeds; Dr. D. O'Connor, Devonport; Dr. W. H. Morrison, Holmesbury, Philadelphia; Dr. G. de C. Morris, Liverpool; A. C. Dutt, M.B., Morpeth; Mr. W. H. M. Tims, Warwick; Mr. G. Adkins, Plympton; J. O'Connor, M.B., Portsmouth; Mr. D. Mann, Leeds; Portsmouth and Plymouth; Mr. C. Cooper, Chester; Mr. M. Smale, London; Dr. W. R. Duguid, Buckle; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; C. H. Milburn, M.B., Hull; Dr. E. C. Spitzka, New York; Mr. E. G. Carter, Leeds; Mr. R. G. Gwynne-Hughes, Llandilo; Mr. C. Potter, Stockport; Mr. R. Weaver, London; Mr. T. A. V. Ford, Chard; Mr. J. A. da Gama, Bombay; Mr. H. Hetherington, London; Mr. J. E. Downing, Falmouth; Mr. T. D. Tate, Dublin; Dr. A. Mantle, Stanley, Durham; Mr. E. Parker Young, London; Dr. D. McVeagh, Coventry; Dr. R. L. Batterbury, Berkhamstead; Mr. E. Owen, London; Dr. H. Macnaughton Jones, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; A. Member; Dr. R. E. Power, Portsmouth; Dr. Mickle, London; Dr. W. Smith, Dublin; Mr. H. K. Allport, Alderney; Dr. M. D. Makuna, Treherne; Dr. P. A. Smith, Welburn; Dr. C. Bell Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. Maxwell, Woolwich; Mr. H. Eschwege, London; Dr. Ireland, Prestonpans; Mr. K. H. B. Williams, Llandudno; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Dr. Tatham, Salford; The Secretary of the Local Government Board, London; E. Cresswell Baber, M.B., Brighton; Mr. H. Barron, London; Dr. W. Brown, Bristol; Dr. T. D. Finucane, Dublin; Dr. Illingworth, Clayton-le-Moors; Debe; Mr. A. Hirst, Prestwich; Dr. G. Meadows, Hastings; Mrs. Howard, St. Anne's on the Sea; Messrs. Street and Co., London; Dr. Pösock, London; Dr. J. W. Taylor, Scarborough; Dr. Edwardes, London; Dr. M. Coates, Streatham; Dr. C. S. Jeaffreson, Newcastle; Dr. W. Sykes, Mexborough; Mr. J. F. Solomon, Birmingham; Dr. D. Laing, Arbroath; Mr. G. P. Lewis, London; H. A. Bredin, M.B., Chester, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Sprains: their Consequences and Treatment. By C. W. Mansell Moullin, M.A., M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

Gout, and its Relation to Diseases of the Liver and Kidneys. By Robson Roose, M.D., F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis. 1887.

Somnia Medici. By John A. Goodchild. Third Series. London: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. 1887.

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