

fact, it requires no arguments to ordinary medical practitioners to show the urgent need of some such association or company as that suggested by "Mid-wifery Forceps."

I have no hesitation in saying that, did I live in London or some large town, I would long ago have brought such a company into practical working order. It only requires that about three or four practical business surgeons in London should take up the matter. Form a company, and I have no doubt in my own mind that sufficient capital could easily be raised among country practitioners. Moreover, I would have no hesitation myself in taking shares, for, if properly managed, it ought to be a paying concern.

Let there be established branches in the principal towns throughout the country. Let one chief feature be a "lending department," where any shareholder or member may, for a fair remuneration, obtain the use of a certain instrument for a limited time. This would be one great boon to the country practitioner.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF NITROUS OXIDE IN COMBINATION WITH ETHER.

MR. S. F. BLENNERHASSET (Vernon Street, Pentonville) writes: In a letter in the JOURNAL of October 1st, Mr. E. G. B. Barlow, a member of the firm of Barth and Co., referring to light steel bottles for compressed nitrous oxide, states "he has reason to believe certain premises have not been taken into consideration."

Now, as the maker of light steel bottles for compressed nitrous oxide, you will, I trust, permit me to say that, as far as I am concerned, every "consideration" has been given to this important matter, and, without wishing to go into abstruse calculations, I beg to say the bottles are constructed of the best cold drawn weldless steel tube it is capable to obtain; guaranteed by the firm who supply the tubing to stand 4,000 lbs. pressure to the square inch, and tested by me to that amount during two stages of their manufacture, that is, in progress and on completion. Their cubical contents have, too, been fully considered, and on one occasion a well known anaesthetist raised the same objections as Mr. Barlow's letter advances. To convince him the information he had received was erroneous, I took a specific bottle Messrs. Barth and Co. had declined to fill, and in his presence put 16 ozs. of compressed nitrous oxide therein, the gauge at completion of filling barely touching 1,800 lbs.

It must thus be obvious to all that under these conditions I am well within any possible contingency with a margin of 2,200 lbs.

As to the almost absurd caution of putting such a bottle near the fire, or in any other way raising its temperature, it should go without saying that even the veriest tyro would not be likely to commit such an act of folly.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC OPHTHALMIA.

MR. R. D. BOASE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Roufford) writes: In reply to "A.M.S.," I may state that last winter up the Nile I treated, among the natives of Egypt, a large number of cases of granular lids. I found nothing so efficacious or painless as scarification with the sharp knife point, a plan highly recommended to me by Dr. Levis, of Philadelphia, who kindly gave me much welcome assistance in my ophthalmic work. I have since abandoned all other methods of treatment, as by blue-stone, etc. The lids being everted, the point should be drawn lightly across the granules and seats of increased vascularity. No after-treatment is necessary, although immediate bathing with tepid water of course increases the effect. I have found like treatment most satisfactory in cases of chronic ophthalmia with increased vascularity of lids, whether granules be present or not. May not "A.M.S." find a suggestion here?

FOREIGN DEGREES AND THE "MEDICAL DIRECTORY."

M.D. BRUX, M.R.C.P. Lond., writes: Is not your correspondent "Brussels" somewhat unnecessarily severe upon the editors of the *Medical Directory*? Surely their sole desire is to ensure the absolute correctness of the entries in their publication. "Brussels" should remember that there are foreign degrees and foreign degrees, and that a circular of the kind he mentions is a great safeguard against the insertion of bogus degrees, which I fear are still to be had for money. I heard only a short time ago of a case in which the editors had very properly refused to insert an American degree bestowed *in absentia*, the reason being that the circular was not satisfactorily filled up. Equally should "Brussels" bear in mind that foreign diplomas are not so easily verified by an inquiry at the *alma mater* as are British ones. I have some reason to believe that no British qualification is ever inserted in the *Directory* without corroboration from head quarters; but I am not actually able to vouch for this.

That there are members even of our honourable profession who are capable of sailing under false colours if they get the chance was amply proved in a late trial for murder, where the poisoner, a medical man, had somehow succeeded in getting the title M.D. Paris appended to his name in the *Directory*, a title to which he had no right whatever. Whether the editors used as much vigilance then as they do now I am unable to say. Possibly the existing circular may have been an outcome of that trial.

I beg to assure you that I hold no brief for the editors of the *Directory*, of whom I know nothing personally, but merely write in the interest of what I consider fair play.

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

Mr. E. Bellamy, London; Mr. G. Turner, Hoddesden; Messrs. W. and A. Gilbey, London; Mr. J. R. Irwin, Whitehaven; Mr. V. Horsley, London; the Secretary of the Hastings and East Sussex Hospital, Hastings; Dr. Lush, Weymouth; Mr. W. Bernard, Londonderry; Messrs. F. Lipscombe and Co., London; Dr. H. Handford, Nottingham; Dr. Hardwicke, Sheffield; Dr. D. Newman, Glasgow; Mr. T. Luson, Taunton; Dr. P. W. Mears, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. E. L. Hussey, Oxford; Dr. E. G. Younger, London; Dr. Eugenio Perdigao, Correo; Mr. W. L. Browne, West Bromwich; Mr. P. de H. Haig, London; Mr. T. Fowler, Epping; Mr. W. Halgood, Killarney; Mr. J. Bateman, Northwich; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. Jacobs, Dublin; Our Swiss Correspondent; Mr. C. Jackson, London; Dr. J. C. Simpson, Edinburgh; the Secretary to the University of Durham; Dr. Davidson, London; Messrs. M. Masters and Sons, London; the Registrar of Owens College, Manchester; the Secretary of the Devonshire Hospital and Buxton Bath Charity, Buxton; Mr. G. E. Williamson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. Webb, Neuilly-sur-Seine; Mr. S. M. Honan, Welshpool; Mr. D. R. Main, East Ilsley; Mr. R. G. Killett, Halstead;

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

- Wintering Abroad. By Dr. A. Drysdale. London: J. S. Virtue and Co. 1887.
- The Growth of the Recruit and Young Soldier. By Sir William Aitken, Knt. London: Macmillan and Co. 1887.
- Holden's Human Osteology. By Charles Stewart and R. W. Reid, M.D., F.R.C.S. Seventh Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill.
- Public Health Reports. By John Simon, K.C.B., F.R.S., etc. Edited by E. Seaton, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.P. Vols. i and ii. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1887.
- Manual of Zoology. By H. A. Nicholson, M.D., etc. Seventh Edition. Edinburgh and London: W. Blackwood and Son.
- Manual for the Physiological Laboratory. By V. Dormer Harris, M.D., and D'Arcy Power, M.A., M.B. Fourth Edition. Illustrated. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1887.
- Dental Caries and the Prevention of Dental Caries. By Henry Sewill, M.R.C.S. Second Edition. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1887.
- Tables of Veterinary Posology and Therapeutics. By George A. Banham, F.R.C.V.S. London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1887.

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