

tions sweat through the Pores of the Skin, and then only Cause all the Spots of Malignant Fevers." But we need not dwell on the pathological views of these writers. Their historical statements alone concern us here, and I submit that were this matter more fully looked into it would clearly show that the changes indicated by this eminent man were "more accurately observed" by our "for-bears" than he is willing to admit.

VACCINATION GRANTS.

VACCINATOR writes: As a public vaccinator of nearly twenty years' standing, I most cordially sympathise with the members of the East Anglian Branch of the Association in the resolution they passed on the above subject, and which was published in the JOURNAL of October 1st.

I may say that I do not write as a disappointed one in the way of grants. I have received several, though I never deserved them at one time more than another. To my mind, nothing is more degrading and offensive than to have to submit to the dictatorial, autocratic, and schoolmaster fashion in which the vaccination inspectors do their work. To begin with, it seems ludicrous to inspect a vaccinator's work—work which any old woman might be taught to do in a week quite as efficiently as the cleverest medical man.

Why do not they inspect our fractures and dislocations, or our public midwifery statistics, or even the results of our dentistry work? These require skill and medical knowledge, and the results, as a rule, are dependent upon that knowledge and skill being rightly applied. But it is the inspectors we are now more particularly considering. I sometimes hesitate to believe that they can be "brother chips, from the way they treat one." Certain I am of one thing, that none of those whom I have seen have ever acted as public vaccinators.

Their want of punctuality is sadly at variance with the strict attention to days, hours, and minutes which they demand from the vaccinators, and it is almost amusing to see the pleasure they are unable to conceal when they discover some slight flaw in the "register," which has no more to do with the efficiency of the vaccinations than the man in the moon, but which will enable them to "blow their own trumpet" at head quarters. I once postponed going to a station to vaccinate on account of a midwifery engagement which was keeping me. The excuse was duly entered, and a messenger sent to the station making a fresh appointment. My grant was lost on that account, and I was severely scolded.

The want of common courtesy is most marked in the inspector. He demands probably the best hours of your day, when he comes and requires you to go round the district and point out the children to him, and he does not hesitate to speak in any way he chooses of the "arms" before the parents. I often wonder how we bear such treatment.

If any expression is given by the public vaccinator as to the hardship of carrying out all the instructions *verbatim et serialim* in scattered country districts, he is calmly told by Mr. Inspector that he can resign if he does not choose to do the work as he is told. More than once, too, have I myself been blamed and my grant lost for doing the very thing that the inspector at his last visit has ordered, but which he has forgotten, and stoutly denies having given. I used to offer my inspector hospitality, but I now find it is best to treat him with the strictest civility only, and give up all hope of being able to please him, doing my work in the manner most convenient to myself, to the vaccinifiers, and to their friends.

I do hope you will allow this matter to be discussed in the JOURNAL. It is the only way I see to make our grievance known, and I hope public vaccinators will speak up.

THE EXAMINATIONS OF THE CONJOINT BOARD.

M.R.C.S. writes: I underwent last month, at the New Hall, the examination in Chemistry and Materia Medica, and I am very desirous, in the interests of any future candidate, to make a few remarks on the present mode of examination. At the appointed times for the written papers I presented myself at the east door each afternoon, and found I was one in a crowd of "medical students" waiting in the open street exposed to the changeable elements and to the jeers of the unemployed. This I consider a great lack of courtesy on the part of the managers of the building, especially as I found later that plenty of space within could be provided for the purpose of waiting. The arrangements for the written examinations themselves were everything that could be desired; the questions were straightforward, searching, and not too hard, and the examiners were obliging, patient in answering the multitude of questions, and courteous in every way.

The practical work in Chemistry I thought very inefficient. I exclude the testing, which is right enough. I found at my table everything for use, and from the examiner I received every attention. But I consider that a *visu voce* examination is absolutely necessary in order to elicit knowledge. This except in a few cases, I noticed was dispensed with.

I arrived at the front entrance at the hour appointed for the practical examination in Materia Medica, but I found, and afterwards I found that I was not the sole discoverer, that great difficulty existed in solving the problem as to where one should go. The instructions I received from the porter were all wrong, and we wandered about at will until we arrived at the summit of expectation and of the building, and thus to the tables. Here I was treated, as before, with courteous consideration.

In conclusion, I think a few alterations are necessary to make the examinations perfect. Candidates should be allowed to proceed at once and at all times to the waiting rooms, which, *en passant*, require a little brightening up and a little more furniture. The examinations should always include a *visu voce* one of thirty minutes' duration; fifteen minutes is too short. At the Materia Medica table I was questioned solely on the preparations of iodine and morphine. Time did not allow more.

CAUTERISATION OF BITES.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH writes: In answer to "H.F." permit me to advocate the use of pure carbolic acid in the treatment of dog bites. It was a communication to one of the journals by Dr. Alfred Wilson, of Leytonstone, which first directed my attention to the value of this method. I apply the pure acid, just liquefied by the aid of heat, thoroughly to every part of the wound once a day for five or six days, by means of a piece of stout wire upon which cotton wool has been wound. Very little pain results, even in wounds extending for an inch or more under the skin.

I think it is high time the useless nitrate of silver was discontinued in the treatment of these dangerous wounds; and I am firmly of opinion that, if carbolic acid were thoroughly used to every case of dog bite, we should have no hydrophobia.

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

Dr. Alex. Duke, Dublin; Mr. E. O. Gilkes, London; Mrs. Carter, Gloucester; Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; Mr. S. Snell, Sheffield; Mr. W. R. Watson, Govan; Mr. R. T. Richardson, Trowbridge; Dr. M. Coates, Streatham; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., London; Mr. A. G. Mitchell, Kinnetty; Dr. Barnardo, London; Mr. E. S. Medcalf, West Brighton; Messrs. Clowes and Sons, London; Mr. J. Grant, Dundee; Mr. R. J. H. Scott, Bath; Mr. E. Sheaf, Toowoomba, Queensland; Mr. C. Lovegrove, Llandveddyn; Dr. Mears, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. J. Hutchinson, London; Mr. A. W. Blake, Great Yarmouth; Dr. F. Madden, Dublin; Mr. C. Edwards, Wolverhampton; Mr. Wallace, Southsea; Dr. E. Playter, Ottawa; Dr. Greene Pasha, Cairo; Miss Hayward, Marlborough; The Secretary of the Parkes Museum, London; Mr. H. O. Grenfell, London; Dr. M. K. Hargreaves, London; Mr. H. G. Terry, Bath; Mr. J. Davies, Berriew; Mr. S. Woollett, Southwold; Mr. R. Aldridge, Yeovil; Mr. R. Clement Lucas, London; Dr. W. H. Spencer, Clifton; Messrs. Sell, London; Mr. E. G. Newell, Merville; Mr. G. Smith, Clapton; Mr. C. Clayton, London; Dr. W. Strange, Worcester; Dr. Holman, Reigate; Sir E. Sieveking, London; Dr. W. S. A. Griffith, London; Mr. W. Lloyd Edwards, Carmarthen; Professor Dr. Bock's Knitting Corset Company, Nottingham; Mr. E. Wilkinson, London; Mr. Walter Fowler, London; Dr. J. H. Aveling, London; Mr. W. Jago, Brighton; Dr. T. Britton, London; Mr. J. C. Watson, Sunderland; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. Turle, London; Dr. J. S. Cameron, Glasgow; Mr. T. G. Lithgow, Farnborough; Mr. T. Holmes, London; The Secretary of the South Indian Branch, Madras; Mr. W. A. Hunt, Yeovil; Dr. O. Hehner, London; Mr. L. Tait, Birmingham; Miss Mott, Cheltenham; Dr. D. A. Fraser, Totnes; Mr. W. Marriott, London; Dr. Woodward, Worcester; Dr. M. R. Brown, Chicago; Mr. G. Stillingfleet Johnson, London; The Secretary of Owens College, Manchester; Dr. R. Wade Savage, London; Messrs. Street and Co., London; A. P. W.; Mr. P. H. Kidd, Basingbourne; Mr. Barwell, London; Dr. P. Boulton, London; Dr. P. C. Smith, Motherwell; Mr. R. J. Riley, Birmingham; Mr. J. F. Knight, Carlton; Mr. W. Adams Frost, London; Mr. A. Stephenson, Nottingham; Mr. T. G. Parrott, Aylesbury; Dr. W. R. Parker, Kendal; Mr. R. N. Jones, Swansea; Dr. J. B. Russell, Glasgow; Our Newcastle Correspondent; Mr. G. F. Hodgson, Brighton; Mr. J. W. Vicker, London; Dr. R. W. Sweeting, London; Dr. R. J. Garden, Aberdeen; Dr. J. Mackenzie Booth, Aberdeen; Mr. William Adams, London; Mr. R. E. Johnson, Stanley; Mr. G. A. Wright, Manchester; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. A. Simpson, Perth; Dr. J. W. Murray, Chorley; Mr. W. M. Gabriel, London; The Honorary Secretaries of the Association of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; R. H. Noot, M.B., Southsea; Mr. R. G. Hearty, Sunderland; Dr. R. Aldridge, Yeovil; Mr. A. Roberts, Keighley; Mr. R. Birch, Newbury; Messrs. J. Dewar and Sons, Perth; Mrs. Bostock, Cheltenham; Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co., London; Mr. J. Simpson, London; Mr. A. J. Lowe, Tyldesley; Mr. S. Murphy, London; Mr. J. J. Jones, London; Dr. A. Crespi, Wimborne; Dr. M. Handfield Jones, London; Mr. J. E. Square, Plymouth, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Alassio: A Pearl of the Riviera. By Dr. J. Scheed. London: Triibner and Co. 1887.

Manual of Clinical Diagnosis. By Dr. Otto Seifert and Dr. F. Müller. Revised and corrected by Dr. F. Müller. Translated by W. B. Canfield, A.M., M.D. Third edition. Illustrated. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland. 1887.

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