

# QUERIES.

## ABSCESS OF ANTRUM OF HIGHMORE.

M.B., M.A., asks for some advice as to what to do with an abscess, evidently in the antrum of Highmore. The upper right molar has been drawn, and a probe can be passed right up into the antrum, and matter flows freely. But the external opening keeps closing up, and the face swells, causing disfigurement and pain, until the discharge is forced through the old channel where the tooth has been extracted.

# ANSWERS.

B.M.A.—Superfluous hairs can be removed by electrolysis. We cannot recommend individual practitioners. "B.M.A." should consult a physician who gives special attention to diseases of the skin.

# NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

## THE LUCE FUND.

AMOUNT already subscribed, £84 18s. 6d.—Dr. Harris, £1; Mr. Bickerton, 10s. 6d. Further donations in aid of Mrs. Luce will be gratefully received by Dr. Caton, 31, Rodney Street, or by Dr. Sheppard, 64, Durning Road, Liverpool.

## MODERATE DRINKING.

SURGEON G. F. POYNTER (Gravesend) writes: A good definition for the above, apparently, has yet to be found. What one considers moderate, another may consider immoderate. If, however, we look on alcohol as a poison, and to some a very insidious poison, it behoves us to be very cautious how we recommend its use at any time, and more particularly its habitual use, even in moderate (?) quantities.

## A SOURCE OF INFECTION.

LYING-IN HOSPITAL SURGEON writes: I read with much surprise a letter in the JOURNAL from Dr. A. D. Macdonald, of Liverpool, where he suggests that the chemist should lend a syringe to women in childbed. If he desired to spread contagion, and have an epidemic of septicæmia among his patients, he could not suggest a more effective plan of propagating it.

I have several times found septic conditions carried from one patient to another by the practice of borrowing syringes. Dr. Macdonald's favourite antiseptic seems to be iodine. After a large experience in both hospital and private lying-in cases, I have found corrosive sublimate more effective.

DR. ARCHIBALD D. MACDONALD (Liverpool) writes: Not to occupy space, and as I hope to deal shortly with the subject elsewhere, I pass by irrelevancies and fallacies in "M.D.'s" reply to my letter. The syringe and catheter were—I quite understood, contrary to his mis-statement—aseptic when he began to use them. But his finger was not aseptic at the time of his first vaginal examination during the labour, otherwise septicæmia would not have supervened "immediately after" parturition was accomplished. If then the antiseptic irrigant which streamed through the syringe were not capable of maintaining its inner surface in an aseptic condition, how could "M.D." expect to purify the interior of the uterus by the douche he used? He might as well have used boiled water. And if the exterior of the syringe were not capable of being purified, what about his own hands? How in that case has he, if he have, put them "beyond the possibility of future harm." Has no further case of septicæmia occurred in his practice? And if he have efficiently disinfected his hands the syringe could, "without burdening his conscience with doubtful economy," have been disinfected in the same manner. For my views on the subject, "M.D." will permit me to refer him to this JOURNAL for September 3rd, and to the *Lancet* of December 3rd, last. I strongly advise him to try the iodine, as it has proved in the experience of others, as well as myself, to be efficient and not a sham.

## SYPHILIS AND CANCER.

A STUDENT OF DISEASE writes: It would seem, from Sir William Stokes not referring to the remarkable announcement made many years ago by Leroy d'Etiolles on the connection of syphilis and cancer, that the distinguished professor was ignorant of its existence. Now it appears that the French surgeon "found one in five cases of cancer ascribed to syphilis by the practitioners of France." On this statement, recorded by Walshe (*On Cancer*, p. 155), this pathologist however remarks: "The comparative immunity of prostitutes from the disease in the organs most likely to suffer militates most strongly against the accuracy of these opinions and results." I should much like to know if this belief in the non-influence of a life of prostitution is generally held.

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# BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Natural History and Epidemiology of Cholera. By Sir J. Payrer, K.C.S.I., LL.D., M.D., Q.H.P., F.R.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.  
Diseases of the Skin. With Seventy-Six Illustrations. By H. Radcliffe Crocker. M.D. London: H. K. Lewis. 1888.  
The Treatment of Hemorrhoids. By Silas T. Yount, M.D. Second Edition. Lafayette, I.M.D.: The Echo Music Co. 1888.  
Irish Health Resorts and Watering Places. By D. Edgar Flinn, F.R.C.S. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co. 1888.

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