

can. Why did he himself not prevent syringes from several times carrying "septic conditions?"

The following letter answers the question put a short time ago: "What is an efficient antiseptic for midwives?" It is from a very able certificated midwife in the south end of Liverpool. "July 14th, 1888.—Dear Sir,—I have to thank you for recommending me to use iodine as a disinfectant. I have always used it since that case of puerperal septicæmia six years ago, and have had on an average 450 cases a year, and they have been most successful. If you wish you can use my name. I am, etc. The name will be given to anyone who desires it."

A lying-in hospital has frequently as many bacilli and cocci 'about' it as a dairy has bacterium lactis. The rational plan, which no doubt is much followed, is not to insert any living bacilli into the vagina, rather than to use irrigants, which often do more harm than good, before any symptom of sepsis appears. With these words I close my part in the present controversy.

LEECHES IN THE AIR PASSAGES.

MR. RICHARD T. CÆSAR (Wellington, Salop) writes: Having seen your annotation in the JOURNAL of July 7th respecting "An Unusual Foreign Body in the Throat," I send you the following extract from my grandfather's journal, who was at that time serving as surgeon on board H.M.S. *Narcissus*, and may, I fancy, explain how this unwelcome guest got into its novel position.

"July 11th, 1802. I must not omit to mention a singular occurrence which happened to one of our marines (John Goff) during the time he was in pursuit of the pirates. Being very thirsty from the intense heat and fatigue of the day, he and a number of the people took a hearty drink of water out of a stagnated pool. When he came on board he told me he was afraid he had swallowed something whilst drinking water on shore, and was immediately seized with spitting of blood, which I conjectured might originate from a small blood vessel being ruptured internally from the exertion in climbing up the cliffs. I ordered different medicines to be administered, but without the desired effect, the bleeding increasing to a pint a day, which caused great debility and loss of colour, he being a very florid young man. I now gave him sugar of lead in small doses. He came into my cabin complaining of there being something in his nose, which appeared to me to be a clot of blood on slight examination; however, to the astonishment of every person on board, the surgeon's assistant extracted a large leech out of his nose, and a few minutes after another from his mouth. They had lived thirteen days in his stomach (?), which caused the spitting of blood, for he recovered his strength and looks, and went to work in a few days."

The above passage occurs after a long description of a chase after Greek pirates, many of whom were taken prisoners.

MILK-SUPPLY IN ITALY.

G. writes: In the letter of your correspondent from Italy, the subject of milk-supply is mentioned, *à propos* of which I beg to state the following fact. While residing in Florence I one evening took a walk along a country road on the north of the city, leading from the Ponte Rosso to the little hamlet of Romito. On one side of the road was an excessively filthy ditch of stagnant water, and from this concentrated abomination I saw a milkman deliberately filling up his milk cans; there was so little liquid (I cannot say water) in the ditch, that he could only scoop it up in small quantities with the lid of the can. He, no doubt, had been dishonestly disposing of some of the milk, and took this way of making up the quantity. Now this ditch was so utterly filthy that I am certain no dog would have touched it, and to add to the horror, about fifty yards further on there were unmistakable signs that the privy of the neighbouring villa was discharged into this ditch. After this spectacle I ceased to wonder at the continued typhoid and diphtheria in Florence.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND INCOME TAX.

THE INCOME TAX REPAYMENT AGENCY (25, Colville Terrace, W.) write: Allow us, through your columns, to call the attention of all medical practitioners holding appointments, or assessed under Schedule B, to a point we have just carried against a surveyor of taxes, as it forms a very valuable precedent. A district medical officer had never claimed any deduction from his assessment on account of expenses incurred in the performance of his duties, not knowing he could do so. The surveyor of taxes, faithful to his instructions, carefully refrained from telling him of it. This year, however, acting on our advice, Dr. F. claimed repayment for the past three years. The surveyor of taxes returned the form, saying it did not apply to his case, but only to clergymen's expenses, and that he could not now claim the deductions, as they ought to have been claimed at the time of the assessment. We did not accept this fiat of the surveyor, and applied to Somerset House, insisting on the case being decided by the District Commissioners, and not by the surveyor. The result was that, although the deductions claimed were not allowed to their full amount, they were admitted to a considerable extent, and our client has got back a very important refund. The strangest part of the case is that the Inland Revenue enclosed with the post-office order the very same form, to claim deductions next year, as the surveyor said was not applicable to the case. Kindly let us mention that we have made an important improvement in our forms for balance sheets and three years' returns to present statement of accounts to the Commissioners.

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Extra Pharmacopœia, with the Additions introduced into the *British Pharmacopœia*, 1885. By William Martindale, F.C.S. Medical References and a Therapeutic Index of Diseases and Symptoms. By W. Wynn Westcott, M.B., Lond. Fifth Edition. London: H. K. Lewis.
The Queen's College, Birmingham, Calendar for Session 1888-9. Medical Faculty, Dental Faculty, Hospital Regulations. Birmingham: Hudson and Son.
The Medical Profession of the United Kingdom. By Walter Rivington, B.A., M.B. Dublin: Fannin and Co.
The Medical Profession in the Three Kingdoms in 1887. By Thomas Laffan M.C.P.I. Dublin: Fannin and Co.

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