

MEDICINE AND ATHEISM.

SENIOR writes: Before reading Dr. Gairdner's address in the JOURNAL, p. 282, I was under the impression that "*ubi tres medici, duo athei*," was Hoffmann's, and that it occurred in his *Medicus Politicus*. It is now many years since I read Hoffmann, and I may be at fault, not having his works at hand myself. Probably some of your readers who have may feel inclined to look into them, and may give us the result of their research.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PASS LIST.

WE are asked to state that Mr. Edward Brooks was unavoidably prevented from attending the graduation ceremony on August 1st, to receive the degree of M.B., C.M., which he obtained at the last final examination. He will consequently have to wait till November before he can be "capped."

HYPODERMIC SYRINGES.

MR. JOHN JAMES SERRES (Osgathorpe, Loughborough) writes: As hypodermic injections are now very much in vogue, I wish to call attention to the syringes. A medical friend of mine and myself tested a lot of syringes by various makers, and found that nearly every one varied from 5 m. to 7 m.; thus, two or three supposed to hold 10 m. held 17 m. As we are so careful about our thermometers being graduated according to Greenwich, ought we not to be more careful over our hypodermic syringes?

"M.S. DURHAM," FOR PRACTITIONERS.

CHIRURGIA writes: I had fully hoped to see in the JOURNAL for August 11th, an answer to your correspondent "M.D., M.S. Durh., M.R.C.S.E. Eng.," who so strongly expresses his objections to the institution of a M.S. degree for practitioners of fifteen years' standing.

The gist of his objections seems to be that the granting of the degree would be in the first place an injustice to those who have obtained it after residence, and in the second place unbecoming to the dignity of the University. I desire to combat both these propositions, and I can do so the more freely in that I received my M.D. there after the usual residence.

Now, whether or no the men who obtain their degree after residence suffer injustice, depends on the antecedent question "Does the typical 'fifteen years' man,' by his professional standing, enhance or depreciate the value of the degree?" For, if their standing be such that they increase its value, then there can be no injustice to anyone in granting it to them. Again, if they increase its value, then the second objection falls, for the dignity of the University will not be lessened by granting its degree to recipients who are worthy of it.

Thus the question is narrowed to this, "What is the professional standing of the typical 'fifteen years' man?" So far as I have seen, he is the picked man of his neighbourhood, he is the local consultant, he is the man who has already attained a high professional position, and desires to obtain the "hall mark" which shows it. So he turns to the only University which recognises his value. He has not only to pass a severe examination at Durham, but, before he can enter, he must have passed the remorseless examination of the world. He is not the man who lessens the value of a degree.

The position of the proposed M.S. is obviously the same as that of the existing M.D. for practitioners. If the latter is a wise institution, so also must the former be, and this cannot be too warmly pressed upon the authorities of the University.

EXTRAORDINARY VITALITY IN A CHILD.

DR. W. A. THOMSON (Amphill) writes: The following narrative may, perhaps, be of some interest: On Tuesday, July 17th, two children, aged respectively 4½ and 5 years, left their homes shortly after their dinner at 1 o'clock. They were seen during the afternoon playing together by the side of a pond, with shoes and socks off their feet, by a passing labourer, who shouted to them to leave the water, and it appears that the boys ran away frightened in different directions. The eldest boy arrived home some hours later on, and stated that he had lost his companion and knew nothing as to what had become of him. Search was made about the roads and paths where the children had been seen, but to no purpose. It was now getting dark, and the police being informed, a large party started off in search, some with lanterns and some with St. Bernard and retriever dogs. Rain fell nearly all that night, but the search was continued, night and day, for several days. It rained heavily frequently during this period.

All hope of finding the child was now abandoned. However, on the Sunday morning following (July 22nd) some young men and boys were having another look round the fields, when, at about 10 A.M., one of them thought he heard some groaning in a field of wheat near to him, and, on going there, found the little boy sitting on the ground, not very far from the pathway. He was sitting upon his coat, with his little trousers drawn down over his feet, and crying out: "Mother, Mother! I am so hungry!"

How long he had been in that spot and in that condition of attire we cannot make out, and he is too young to give much explanation. When found he appeared to be in a semi-conscious state, and did not seem to know those around him; but after some hours he recognised his mother and brothers. With suitable treatment the child has completely recovered, without any subsequent illness which might be induced by starvation or exposure to wet and cold for the long period of five days and nights, counting from the dinner-hour on Tuesday until 10 A.M. on the Sunday following.

During this time, as far as anyone knows, the child had nothing to eat except the heads of growing wheat (which was in very poor condition at that time). He told me that he had eaten some, and we may presume he sucked water off the wheat and grass about him. Curiously enough, the child had out with him a small tin box without any lid, and he states that he tried to catch rain-water in it, but could not get any; the wheat being very high probably prevented him doing so, and also most likely kept him fairly dry. In appearance the child did not seem much the worse for his prolonged fast, and seemed as plump as any ordinary child; but the mother states that he was an unusually strong and fat boy.

Taking all things into consideration—the child's age, no proper food or drink for over 117 hours, the exposure to the wet and cold weather prevailing at the time, the misery and the loneliness it must have endured for so long a period—it seems somewhat remarkable that life was preserved.

ERRATUM.

IN the summary of proceedings in the Section of Ophthalmology, published in the JOURNAL of August 18th, the name of Mr. C. G. Lee was erroneously given in one place as "C. H. Lee," and in another as "C. Lee."

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

Sir Geo. H. B. Macleod, Glasgow; Nemo; Dr. James Dewar, Buxton; Dr. Fisher, Lytham; Messrs. T. and R. Annan, Glasgow; Mr. J. de Courcy Young, Lewisham; Miss Palmer, Drew; Jordan Lloyd, M.B., Birmingham; Dr. Paterson Corrie, Arran; Mrs. Crisp, Kenysnam; J. Mackie Whyte, M.B., Dundee; Dr. A. Ogier Ward, Lower Tottenham; Messrs. Thos. Pearse, Son, and Co., Darlington; Dr. Carmichael, Edinburgh; Dr. Nunn, Royat-les-Bains; Mr. R. S. Sleman, Bromley; Sir Edmund Lechmere, London; Mr. R. Stuart Sanderson, London; Mr. Alex. D. H. Leadman, Borough-bridge; Mrs. E. Browett, London; Dr. W. Carter, London; Mr. Charles Truax, London; Mr. Richard Jones, Bradford-on-Avon; Mr. W. Arthur Dickson, Bridge of Allan; Mr. A. Sutcliffe, Burnley; Mr. Alexander Fraser, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Vesey Fitzgerald, Birmingham; Dr. Glaister, Coln; Rev. G. Howard Wright, London; Dr. J. Crawford Renton, Glasgow; Dr. Jas. Ramsay, York; T. G. Alexander, M.B., Glasgow; Messrs. Garrard and Cowan, Sheffield; Mr. E. Stanmore Bishop, Manchester; Our Manchester Correspondent; the Registrar-General, London; Mr. T. H. Bickerton, Liverpool; Dr. Andrew Smart, Edinburgh; Dr. Francis Warner, London; Dr. Macewen, Glasgow; Professor Benedikt, Vienna; Mr. Joseph Welsh, Knighton, Radnor; Dr. Partridge, Stroud; Mr. G. Rice, Derby; Dr. Cremin, Cork; Mr. W. H. Bennett, Coleraine; Sir William Mac Cormac, London; Dr. C. Lewis, Birmingham; Messrs. T. Christy and Co., London; Parish Doctor; Mr. Carl Lawinski, London; Mr. T. Burnell, Criccieth; Dr. Tatham, Salford; Mr. F. H. Appleby, Newark; J. S. Butler, M.B., Rotherham; Mr. W. A. Johnston, Ambleside; Mr. T. L. Laxton, London; Dr. E. Leonard Adeney, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Macintyre, Glasgow; Dr. J. Gage-Parsons, Bristol; Dr. Black, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. J. Phillips, London; Mr. C. E. Adams, London; Mr. G. A. Montgomery, Briton Ferry; Mr. J. J. Serres, Osgathorpe; Mr. F. Vasey Adams, Glasgow; C. Smelt, M.B., Marlborough; Dr. C. Bell Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. P. F. Robertson, Glasgow; Dr. Roe, Dublin; Messrs. Anderson and Adams, Dublin; Mr. Wm. Berry, Wigan; Dr. A. J. Hubbard, Hemel Hempstead; Mr. F. F. Peet, Tralee; Mr. G. Russell Beardmore, London; Mr. C. G. Lee, Liverpool; Dr. Ferrier, London; Professor Victor Horsley, London; Mr. Oliver Withers, Nottingham; E. Hobhouse, M.B., London; Mr. F. Hudson, Slingsby; Dr. S. Moore, Glasgow; Mr. P. S. Hutchinson, London; Sir William C. Hoffmeister, Osborne; Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, London; Mr. Eardley Bailey Denton, London; Dr. J. Swain Scriven, Duffield; G. Washington Isaac, M.B., London; Dr. J. Holmes Joy, Tamworth; Dr. A. J. Wharry, Malvern; H. T. Rutherford, M.B., London; Dr. Henry Bartlett, London; Mr. Alfred Corrie, Devonport; Mr. C. C. Blake, London; Dr. Lodge, Bradford, Yorkshire; Mr. James Milner, Shipdham, Norfolk; Dr. W. H. Myers, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Messrs. T. Christy and Co., London, etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Notes on Surgery for Nurses. By Joseph Bell, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1888.
Intubation of the Larynx. By F. E. Waxham, M.D. Published by Charles Truax, Chicago, Ill. 1888.
The Principles and Practice of Medicine. Edited from the manuscript of the late Charles Hilton Fagge, M.D., F.R.C.P., by Philip Pye-Smith, M.D., F.R.S. Vols. I and II. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.
A Manual of Nitrous Oxide Anesthesia. By J. Frederick W. Silk, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.
On the Relief of Excessive and Dangerous Tympanites by Puncture of the Abdomen. A Memoir by John W. Ogle, M.A., M.D., F.S.A. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.

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