

The first annotation, the one in which the expression occurs, runs as follows: "Physicians (of the number whereof it appears by several passages in this Booke the Author is one) doe commonly heare ill in this behalf. It is a common speech (but only amongst the unlearned sort) *ubi tres medici, duo atheni*. The reasons why those of that profession (I declare myself that I am none but *causarum actor medicorum*, to use Horace his phrase) may be thought to deserve that censure, the author rendreth Section 19."

The authorship of these annotations was for long a matter of doubt, and was even unknown to Dr. Johnson when he wrote Sir Thomas Browne's life. The later researches of Wilkin, 1835, went far to show, however, that the author was probably Mr. Thomas Keck, of the Temple, and the personal description, given above, *causarum actor medicorum*, a moderate pleader of causes, lends some additional weight to this view.

If the Hoffman, to whom "Senior" refers, be the most eminent physician of that name, Friedrich Hoffman the elder, of Halle, the first professor of medicine in that university, he could not have originated the proverb, even admitting that it does occur in his writings, as he was not born until 1660, and this calumny and reproach, as Dr. Gairdner very appropriately terms it, was certainly, as has been shown above, "a common speech amongst the unlearned sort" as early as 1656, even if it did not exist long before. The phrase does not occur in the notes added by Moltkins (1652) to Merryweather's Latin translation of the *Religio Medici*. Dr. Gairdner tells us that he has been unable to trace the allusion to its source, but suggests that the proverb may have originally taken form as an expression of the mediæval intolerance of all investigation of Nature. Possibly Dr. Greenhill, of Hastings, a well known commentator on Sir Thomas Browne, may be able to add something further to our knowledge on the point.

UNKNOWN SUMMER HOLIDAY RESORT.

A CORRESPONDENT writes: The suggestion made by a contributor to the JOURNAL a year or so ago has always seemed to me to be a good and practical one, namely, that when a new and attractive summer resort is discovered the information should be conveyed while the memory of it is still fresh in the recollection of the discoverer. No apology is, I am sure, needed in these days of professional overcrowding and reduced incomes, for bringing under the notice of my brother practitioners a summer resort, where that entire change of environment which conduces so much to mental rest can be obtained at about half the usual cost of a holiday on the Continent.

The place from which I am now writing—Hohwald by Barr, Alsace—appears to be little known in England. I believe I am the only Englishman who has visited it this season, and a Dutch gentleman who has been a visitor for several years informs me that he has only met one of my countrymen during that time. This I can only attribute to the beauties and advantages of the place being unknown, as it is comparatively easy of access. The Great Eastern Railway Company issues return tickets to Strassburg at a moderate rate, and the journey may be accomplished in forty hours, twenty of which may be pleasantly spent in visiting one or two of the cities *en route*, as the journey may be broken at Antwerp, Brussels, Namur, Jemelle, d'Arion, Luxembourg, Metz, or Strassburg. The journey from Strassburg to Barr by the local railway occupies two hours, and Hohwald is reached by omnibus in one hour and three-quarters more. Hohwald is a village of 682 inhabitants, situated in a sheltered and picturesque position in the Central Vosges Mountains at an elevation of 2,148 feet, and in the midst of large forests of pine trees, through which roads and footpaths lead in every direction to neighbouring towns, villages, and points of interest, at distances varying from one to six miles; and as the gradients are very easy I need scarcely indicate that it offers special attractions to middle-aged persons, those with weak hearts or lungs, or those who during the rest of the year lead sedentary lives.

The mean temperature during the season, which is from June 1st to September 30th, is 63.5° F. by day and 59.1° F. by night. Ozone in the air by day 7.2 per cent., and by night 8.8 per cent. The soil is so dry and porous that even after a thunderstorm the roads and paths quickly become dry. Owing to its elevated and sheltered situation the air is genial without being relaxing, and consequently a considerable amount of exercise can be taken with less fatigue than at many other health resorts situated at an equal height above the sea level. The Hotel du Hohwald has a special water supply from a very pure and elevated source, and the sanitary arrangements are good, the closets being isolated and otherwise well constructed, while the sewage is conveyed to a safe distance and disposed of by precipitation in a tank, and the effluent water is discharged into a rapid brook. There are good warm and douche baths adjoining the hotel; it is capable of accommodating 200 visitors, and the tariff is very moderate, varying of course according to the room or rooms occupied. The bill of fare is liberal and varied, and the quality of the food and the hours at which it is served will meet the requirements of most Englishmen.

Hitherto this place has been almost wholly monopolised by the Germans and French, but the new German passport regulations have this season practically excluded the latter, and it is believed that those regulations will in the future be more stringently carried out. I may add that it is difficult to speak in terms of sufficiently high praise of the civil and obliging proprietor Mr. J. H. Kuntz, and his wife, or indeed of the attendance generally. In the fear of appearing to be too laudatory in my remarks, and of trespassing too largely on your valuable space, I have confined myself to a bare recital of the natural and acquired attractions of Hohwald and its hotel, not the least of which is, I am sure, the attention paid to the sanitation of the latter.

INHERITANCE IN KITTENS OF DEFORMED TAIL FROM ACCIDENT TO THE MOTHER.

MR. J. R. SEYMOUR (Camden Town) writes: A short time ago I had a black cat given to me, which had a few weeks previously given birth to five kittens, two of which were black and white, the other three all black. Two of the black ones were born with deformed and stunted tails like the mother; the tails of the other three were normal. All the kittens were drowned save one of the abnormal tailed black ones, which I received with the mother. The abnormality in the mother was that the tail was very short, about 2½ inches in length, and that in about the middle of its length the two portions were united at an angle of about 135° with each other. The joint between the first caudal vertebra and the sacrum was in all respects normal, but the joints between the other vertebrae were all more or less ankylosed, so that they did not admit of any appreciable movement. I suspect that the mother had at one time been snared in a gin or shut in a door-way, and had lost the greater part of her tail, the remaining portion, having been dislocated in about the

middle of its length, had united at an angle. There was a scar in the skin at the extremity of the tail which was well covered with hair (not the scar, but the skin immediately surrounding). It may be that the deformity was handed down from two or more generations, but would the scar be then as plainly visible as it was now? The kitten that I had was of the female sex, and, like the mother, was also very dirty in its habits, so much so that I had to destroy them both. I am unable to speak regarding the sex of the other kittens, as I had not the opportunity of deciding. It is certain that the cat was an ordinary one and not a Manx breed, though many persons supposed it was, from the shortness of its caudal extremity.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Frog: an Introduction to Anatomy, Histology, and Embryology. By A. M. Marshall. Third Edition. Manchester: J. E. Cornish. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.
The Diseases of the Chest. By V. D. Harris, M.D. Lond., L.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.
Massage and Allied Methods of Treatment. By Herbert Tibbits, M.D. Second Edition. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.
The Prevention of Disease in Tropical and Subtropical Campaigns. By A. Duncan, M.D., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1888.

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