

HYPOSPADIAS.

MR. TRAFFORD MITCHELL (Gorseinon) writes: On August 22nd I was called to examine an infant a few hours old, whose sex was uncertain, and found it a case of so-called hermaphroditism—in reality, one of hypospadias. The penis measured about five-eighths of an inch from the os pubis to the point of the glans; the corpora cavernosa were well developed and the glans was of large size, but the urethra opened on the under surface of the penis, a little on the perineal side of the pubes. From this urinary meatus a groove lined with mucous membrane extended forwards to the glans, whilst a well-marked raphe extended backwards to the anus. The prepuce was well-developed above, but the integuments were deficient beneath in the neighbourhood of the groove. The scrotum resembled two exaggerated labial folds, and as the skin covering these was continuous with the mucous membrane of the groove before mentioned, and there was considerable depression on either side of the raphe, the resemblance to a female was very great on a hasty inspection. There was no trace of the female vagina. No testicles were found in the scrotum; but this is what was to be expected, as the child was born in the eighth month of pregnancy.

SMELLIE'S GRAVE.

DR. J. M. WATSON (Lanark, N.B.) writes: I beg to direct the attention of members to the dilapidated condition of the above, and to solicit their aid to have the resting-place of one of the pioneers of our art rescued from oblivion. I do so at the request of a number of members who visited Lanark with the excursion during the late meeting in Glasgow, who were sorry to see that, unless something were done, even the name of Smellie would soon be obliterated. I ask for small subscriptions, only a few pounds being required to have the lettering redone, the stone repaired, and the grave enclosed by a plain rail. Subscriptions will be received by the Town Clerk, Mr. Annan, the Clydesdale Bank, Lanark, and the execution of the repairs seen to by the provost and myself.

BAD CLEVE AS A HEALTH RESORT.

DR. W. WOODWARD writes: Cleave (pronounced Clava) is about four miles from Emmerich, the first town on the Rhine, within about twelve hours of London (fare, per Cook, £2 return); so that you go to bed on the steamer, and wake up within a few hours of Cleave. I left Liverpool Street Station at 8 p.m. and arrived at Cleave at 3 p.m. *via* Harwich and Rotterdam; but I believe that *via* Queenstown and Flushing, from Victoria or Holborn, is a better and shorter route. It is well situated on the side of a wooded hill, with a fine forest of pine trees extending many miles, with numerous shady walks. The soil is good sand. The water from the hills is very pure, and there is a good chalybeate spa.

The place consists chiefly of a very clean, old-fashioned town, paved with stones, there being one principal street, very steep, with a very fine large church and old palace at the top, commanding an extensive view; also beautiful park-like grounds called the Thiergarten, containing fine specimens of ornamental trees and shrubs. An excellent band, kept up by the hotels, plays alternately at the various hotels, which are beautifully situated, while visitors sit about in or out of doors, smoking, sipping coffee, etc. The air is very fresh and invigorating. It is an exceedingly quiet and healthy place, and, being so near home, requires only to be better known to be appreciated. Still, some 20,000 visitors, chiefly Dutch, are said to come here in the season, lasting from about May to September. The very wet July this year kept many away. There are several very good hotels, and I can speak personally of the Bad as to its situation, magnificent rooms, moderate charges, and excellent accommodation.

THE VACCINATION ACT.

At the Aston Petty Sessions, before which the Rev. Frederick Moore, Minister of the Park Road Congregational Chapel was summoned for neglecting to comply with an order made by justices to have his child Dora vaccinated, the question was argued whether the onus of proving that the child had not been vaccinated was with the prosecution or with the defence. For the prosecution it was urged that the proof rested with the defendant, inasmuch as the vaccination officer could not enter the defendant's house to see the child without rendering himself liable to an action for trespassing. If the vaccination was performed by a public vaccination officer, then that person was bound to send the certificate of successful vaccination to the vaccination office of the district, but if the operation was done by a private practitioner it was left with the parents to forward the certificate. If the child had been vaccinated, then the defendant was liable to a penalty for not sending in the certificate. On behalf of the defendant it was submitted that the onus rested with the prosecution, and several authorities were quoted in support of this contention, but the Bench, ruling that a *prima facie* case had been made out, and that the onus rested with the parents of the child, fined defendant twenty shillings and costs.

COCAINE IN VAGINISMUS.

DR. STEEVES (Liverpool) writes:—I have tried cocaine in two cases of vaginismus, with partial success. In one instance I prescribed it in much the same manner as Dr. Hayward did, and the spasms were almost entirely removed. In the other case, mention of which will be found in my article "Cocaine Externally and Internally," published in the *Lancet*, September 10th, 1887, I employed the cocaine as a local anæsthetic before the introduction of bougies. The patient was also instructed to use the ointment at night. There was an improvement for a time, but the spasms were never entirely absent, and I believe they are now as severe as ever. The cocaine seemed to lose its effect. The vagina in this case also was rather short.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Therapeutics: its Principles and Practice. By H. C. Wood, M.D., LL.D. Seventh edition of a treatise of Therapeutics. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.

Directory for the Dissection of the Human Body. By John Cleland, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Third edition, by John Yule Mackay, M.D. London: Smith, Elder and Co. 1888.

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