

noticed were our acquaintance with the peritoneal cavity and the interior of joints, and of late a better knowledge of the methods applicable in brain surgery. Certainly here are three grand fields wherein great improvement has been made, and the death-rate from surgical interference wonderfully reduced. Pemberton is not an ardent believer in the germ theory of disease, indeed, seems rather sceptical, and regards the termination of the case of the late Emperor of Germany as a serious blow to microscopical diagnosis. He thinks Mackenzie pursued a wise policy of judicious reticence in this justly celebrated case. Pemberton is purely an old school surgeon and gentleman who bases his beliefs almost entirely on clinical experience."

Mr. Steele is obviously unaware that a good deal of this borders on impertinence. But there is comicality about this style of record of professional impressions which will amuse, while it is not without suggestive warning. "Angels unawares" are evidently sometimes very lively company.

#### HAY FEVER.

DR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH (Accrington) writes: Dr. W. Walford's letter, in the JOURNAL of October 20th, leads me to place more confidence in the treatment I adopted in July last of a bad case of hay fever. My patient was a clergyman, and he had been ill and under treatment without benefit for four or five weeks. The disease was well marked, and affected the chest as well as the nose. I prescribed a douche of 1 in 2,000 of warm lotion of the biniodide of mercury at bedtime, and the nasal affection disappeared with one application. I then ordered a spray inhalation of the same lotion to be used at bedtime. My patient came in great glee two days afterwards to inform me that he had been cured with one inhalation.

#### GAS STOVES.

THE SANITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, Limited (Gloucester) desire to refer those who are interested in this matter to the illustration of Dr. Bond's euthermic gas ventilating stove, which may be seen in our advertising columns. The Company considers that it combines in the highest possible degree the conditions of efficiency in heating power and the introduction of fresh warm air.

MR. F. W. JORDAN (Heaton Chapel, Stockport) writes: With reference to the inquiry about gas heating stoves, in the JOURNAL of Sept. 15th, I would like to say that in my opinion "George's patent calorifier" is of all the stoves I have met with the best; it is practically useful, and is scientifically correct. It admits warm and only fresh air, and provides for the exit of the products of combustion. In addition, the gas jets are shut up inside the machine, and have a separate air-supply of their own. The machine is expensive, but not dear, and it is not more ugly than any other heating apparatus. With regard to the cost of gas used I cannot yet speak from experience, as I have had mine in use only for a short time, but it has seven jets in it, so I suppose it will be expensive (these jets are ordinary gas burners; I am not sure whether Bunsen's burners would not be better); but if you want a gas-heating stove to be effective it must consume gas, and the more gas consumed the greater the heat evolved. For rooms occupied only part of a day, especially if you want to save servants' attendance, dust, and dirt, a supply of coals, an expensive coalbox, etc., and noise, there is nothing better than a gas stove. The cheerfulness of an open fire that is here wanting must be supplied in some other way (for example, it makes one cheerful to think that there is no need for the servant to come into one's room to dust books and dust and "side" papers, etc.).

#### CYCLES OR CARRIAGES.

MR. FRANK SHAPLEY (Consul Cyclists' Touring Club, Sidecup, S.E.) writes: "Junior Partner," in his letter, refers entirely to tricycles. I do a great deal of my work on a Safety. I keep one horse, but do all my visiting, if any distance off, between 5 P.M. and 9 A.M. on a machine. Prejudice points with a disdainful finger on the Safety, but custom soon removes that. Besides the economy, which to me I estimate as equal to half a horse—and as such a luxury cannot be enjoyed it really means equal to a whole horse—there is the saving of time whilst a horse is being put to, added to which is the exhilaration and exercise most beneficial to a class of men which requires to be active and strong.

It strikes me that our pedantic patients are the worst political economists. It is absolutely essential for their welfare that we should always be available to go to their succour, and to be of use we must have *mens sana in corpore sano*; and yet these very same people would insist on relegating us to a stuffy brougham and *costume de rigueur*—frock coat and box hat, both black and intensely disagreeable in hot weather.

If the cycle were more generally used in the profession I am certain that it would conduce to improved health in the doctors themselves, which, I argue, is of ultimate advantage to their patients. If "Junior Partner" cares to write I shall be happy to give any further information *re* machine, costume, etc.

**ERRATUM.**—In the report of the proceedings of the Leeds and West-Riding Medico-Chirurgical Society, in the JOURNAL of October 27th, p. 942, col. 1, line 34, for "cheek the success," read "check the excess."

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

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh. New Series. Session 1887-88. Vol. VII. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1888.  
Select Monographs: Raynaud's Two Essays on Local Asphyxia; Klebs and Grudeli on the Nature of Malaria; Marchiafava and Celli on the Origin of "Melanemia"; Neugebauer on Spondylolisthesis. London: The New Sydenham Society. 1888.  
Lectures to Practitioners on the Diseases of the Kidney Amenable to Surgical Treatment. By David Newman, M.D. London: Longman, Green, and Co. 1888.

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