

"THE BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA."

MR. HENRY KIMPTON (London) writes: In your account of the meeting of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, Mr. Macnamara, speaking of the proposed publication of Dr. Maybury's book by me, is reported to have said that it was intended to be issued at a lower price than the *British Pharmacopæia*. That is an error; the price advertised being 6s. 6d., that is, 6d. more than the *British Pharmacopæia*. It is also not the fact that the two books are printed in the same type, as stated by the same gentleman.

PRIZE FOR AN ESSAY ON FISH POISONING.

THE Russian Academy of Sciences offers a prize of 5,000 roubles (£500) for the best inquiry into the nature and effects of the poison which develops in cured fish. The objects of the competitors must be: "(1) To determine, by means of exact experiments, the physical and chemical nature of the poison which develops in fish; (2) to study, by experiments on animals, its action upon the heart, the circulation of the blood, the organs of digestion, and the nervous system; (3) to determine the rapidity of its absorption by the digestive organs; and (4) to study and describe the characteristics which may serve to distinguish contaminated fish from such as are not contaminated." The fifth and sixth questions, with which it may be impossible for any one to deal satisfactorily, relate to the means of preserving fish from the development of the poison, and to the question of counter-poisons and the medical treatment of poisoned persons. The competition is open to all. The memoirs must be sent in, either in manuscript or printed, before January 1st, 1893, and may be written in any one of the following languages: Russian, Latin, French, English, German. If none of the papers is deemed worthy of the full prize, the accumulated interest upon the above-named sum may be handed over to the author who presents the best solution to some part of the problem.

"PEROMELUS APUS."

MR. MARK STYLE (Bromyard) writes: Dr. Nisbet's case, reported in the JOURNAL, July 6th, reminds me of a case I inspected a few years ago in a travelling show. The man was some 25 years of age, and gained his living by acting as boot maker to the troupe, as well as by showing himself to the public. There was absolutely no sign of a lower extremity on either side, and I could make out no acetabula; there was some puckering of the skin over the pelvic bones. The humeri were abnormally long, both forearms terminating above the wrist joint; otherwise he was a well developed, strongly built man.

MUNICIPAL APPRECIATION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.

"It is unfortunately not often," says the *New York Medical Journal*, "that a municipality sets a just estimate upon medical services for which it is called upon to pay. A commendable example in this respect has been set by the Municipal Assembly of St. Louis in voting an appropriation of 500 dollars to Dr. A. C. Bernays for attendance on a member of the police force who had been injured in the discharge of his duty. The case was one of gunshot wound of the abdomen involving the stomach, the duodenum, and the jejunum, and immediate laparotomy was performed with perfect success."

MAGGOTS IN THE EAR.

J. HOLMES, M.D., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond. (Southam) writes: A man, 66, with a history of middle ear disease from infancy, and who had been totally deaf in left ear since that time, came to the surgery on July 24th complaining of "maggots in the ear." He said that whilst haymaking about 2 P.M. on July 23rd, a small blow fly settled in his ear and remained there for about ten minutes in spite of his repeated endeavours to dislodge it. About 2 A.M. on July 24th he felt a stabbing pain in his ear, and there was a slight discharge of blood. He inserted some fresh cotton-wool in his ear, and on subsequently removing this found one or two small maggots. He came to the surgery at midday on the same day, and on removing the wool from the ear there was a small maggot on it, and two observed crawling on his neck. His ear was syringed, and one or two came away. He was told to drop some sweet oil into his ear. He returned on the morning of July 25th, and his ear was syringed with a weak antiseptic solution, and one larger one came away. He then stated that about forty had come away altogether. He returned in the evening feeling much more comfortable, and believes there are no more there. They had the appearance of ordinary maggots, such as one sees in fly-blown meat, and were from about a quarter to half-an-inch in length.

POST-DIPHTHERITIC PARALYSIS.

E. MANSEL SYMPSON, M.B. (Lincoln) writes: A girl, aged 9, who has been a patient of mine lately, possesses a history of, I think, some interest. Two months ago she had a bad sore throat; "it looked whitish," the mother said. After a week, when she had got rid of a lot of whitish phlegm, her speech was thick, and fluids returned through her nose; also her accommodation was impaired. Later, she seemed to have no command over her legs, and when I saw her there was no knee-jerk to be obtained. Her breathing apparently was never affected, nor did her voice become "croupy." Here, then, was a case of diphtheria with typical paralysis following, and the mother had not thought it necessary to send for a doctor! Again, there were three other children living in the house; one had a slight sore throat, so that the susceptibility to contagion varied greatly in that one house.

DEATHS FROM PHTHISIS.

DR. ALEXANDER JAMES writes to say that with reference to a passage in the review of his work on *Pulmonary Phthisis* which appeared in the JOURNAL of April 6th last, in which it was stated that the results given in the first Brompton Hospital Report as regards age in phthisis were "founded on much larger data" than his own, that he has ascertained that the number of cases in the Report referred to was 4,358, whilst the number of cases from which his conclusions were drawn was 81,626, namely, the total deaths from phthisis in Scotland for ten years.

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

Dr. P. M. Deas, Exeter; Mr. O. Hehner, London; Mr. R. M. P. Low, London; Mr. F. W. J. Illye, Warminster; Dr. T. O'Reilly, St. Louis; Dr. J. H. Stallard, San Francisco; The Secretary of the Sanitary Institute, London; Mr. T. J. Bokenham, Cheshunt; Mr. T. M. Evans, Hull; Mr. A. Clark, Southampton; Mr. J. Hogg, London; Mr. G. F. E. Morgan, Hartlepool; Dr. B. Walker, Kirkby Stephen; Dr. Halliday, Glasgow; The Registrar of

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Illustrated Catalogue and Price List of Surgical Instruments, Apparatus, and Appliances. Sold by John Weiss and Son, London.
Diseases and Injuries of the Ear. By Chas. Henry Burnett, A.M., M.D. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland. 1889.
A System of Obstetrics. Edited by Barton Cooke Hirst, M.D. Volume II. Edinburgh: Young J. Pentland. 1889.
Clinical Lectures on Diseases of the Nervous System. By Professor J. M. Charcot. Volume III. Translated by T. Savill, M.D. Lond., M.R.C.P. L. London: The New Sydenham Society.
On the Respiratory Functions of the Nose, and their relation to certain Pathological Conditions. By Greville Macdonald, M.D. Lond. London: A. P. Watt. 1889.
Health Troubles of City Life. By George Herschell, M.D. Lond. Bristol: J. Wright and Co. London: Hamilton Adams and Co. 1889.
Manual of Musical Drill. By George Cruden, A.M. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1889.
Lectures on General Pathology. By Julius Cohnheim. Translated from the second German edition, by Alex. B. McKee, M.B. Dub. Section I: The Pathology of the Circulation. London: The New Sydenham Society.

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