

nancy; the first child was premature and delicate from birth, and only lived one month; the second and third only lived two days, also weakly from birth, and the other pregnancy ended in abortion. During the fifth and two subsequent pregnancies she took quinine more or less freely, chiefly for the vomiting, which it controlled satisfactorily, and each of the children born after taking quinine is still alive. She is now *enroute* again, and has consulted me as to the advisability of taking quinine—although not this time needed for the vomiting—because she attributes the life of her three children to the circumstance of having taken quinine during those particular pregnancies.

I think "A Member" will find one-grain doses sufficient if his is a suitable case for the drug. I find it most beneficial in those cases which appear to be connected with neuralgia and other nervous conditions.

#### DURATION OF CONSTIPATION.

DR. GEORGE FOY (Dublin) writes: A. M. R. will find some interesting cases of Constipation in Dr. James O'Beirne's book, *New Views of the Process of Defecation*, published in Dublin in 1833, by Hodges and Smith. Pages 74 to 87 are occupied with the history of the case of a girl, aged 19, who "had not had a stool of any kind, or passed even flatus *per anum*, since early in the preceding December, a period of nearly six months."

#### BOOKS ON ANATOMY.

T.F.—For the London and Cambridge honours examinations it is usual to recommend Quain, supplemented by Gegenbaur's *Comparative Anatomy*, or the second volume of Balfour's *Embryology*. It is understood that in a few days Professor Macalister, of Cambridge, will have his book on anatomy out, and the work is, we believe, especially intended to meet the requirements of candidates for honours. A new edition of Quain has been talked of for some time.

#### NOTES, LETTERS, ETC.

##### UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

ANOTHER SINE DIPLOMA writes: "A Member," who wrote to the JOURNAL of September 14th, brings the most outrageous charges against the "unqualified assistant," namely, "drunkenness, dishonesty, incapacity for diagnosis, and incompetency for prescribing." If these charges were true the unqualified assistant could not exist, simply because no medical man would employ him. But the mere fact that the unqualified assistant does exist, and often is preferred to the "newly-fledged" man by medical men of standing, is a complete refutation of "A Member's" charges as applied to that class.

I am speaking for those who have gone through the curriculum and worked honestly, and not for those who stepped from behind a counter to the post of "unqualified assistant," and for those first who are *sans diplôme* through no real fault of their own. I think something should be done at least to raise their status; but possibly that something should take shape and form within their own ranks.

M.B. writes: "A Member," writing on this subject, is quite just and well within the mark in his condemnation of those who impose upon the "unthinking public" the service of unqualified assistants. I would go further, and ask how it is that an unqualified assistant can be *de facto* public vaccinator and poor-law officer, the legally appointed officer simply signing his name to the other's work? And in the particular instance of which I have knowledge the latter gentleman has been found (some years ago now) "professionally incapable" by a board of examiners.

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

Mr. G. Christopher, London; Messrs. Sampson Low and Co., London; Dr. More Madden, Dublin; Dr. J. M. Bruce, London; Mr. E. Whittingham, Bournemouth; Mr. Page, London; Dr. A. Hill, Birmingham; Mr. F. St. J. Bullen, Wakefield; Mr. S. Morton, Sheffield; Mr. W. Y. Veitch, Middlesbrough; Messrs. R. Sumner and Co., Liverpool; Mr. D. D. Day, Norwich; Brigade-Surgeon F. W. S. Hodder, Grouville, Jersey; Mr. A. W. Williams, Ravensthorpe; Messrs. R. Hogg and Son, London; Mr. H. K. Lewis, London; Mr. J. W. Hopkins, Snettisham Grange; Our Swiss Correspondent; Mr. W. B. Hemsley, London; Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, London; Dr. W. Pearce, London; Dr. G. A. Stockwell, Detroit; Mr. R. N. Ingle, Cambridge; Mr. J. Furley, London; Mr. J. Falconer, Dublin; Dr. L. Cane, Peterborough; Mr. F. P. H. Hughes, Weston-super-Mare; Messrs. Williams and Norgate, London; Mr. G. H. Wilkins, London; Mr. F. J. Rebman, London; Mr. M. W. Kerin, Cork; Dr. D. A. Fraser, Totnes; Dr. Ilott, Bromley; Dr. Robert Maguire, London; Professor Gardner, Glasgow; Mr. J. K. Frost, Looe R.S.O.; Mr. S. Geary, Dartford; Mr. W. B. Nisbet, Townsville, New Zealand; Dr. J. Reid, Melbourne; M.S.; Mr. D. Franklin, Dover; Mr. P. F. Moline, London; Dr. H. Smith, London; Mr. A. F. Wilson, London; Mr. T. H. Williams, Oswestry; G. H. R. Holden, M.B., London; Dr. J. A. da Gama, Bombay; Dr. P. T. Duncan, Croydon; Dr. C. E. Shaw, Belfast; Mr. Bland Sutton, London; Mr. T. H. Bartleet, Birmingham; Mr. A. S. Roe, Eccles; Our Egyptian Correspondent; Dr. A. B. Harris, Falmouth; Mr. J. Binks, Wakefield; Dr. D. N. Knox, Glasgow; Mr. J. Evans, Beaufort; Dr. MacGregor, Wellington, New Zealand; Mr. W. Towers-Smith, London; Mr. W. Deeble, Netley; Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey, and Co., London; Dr. R. H. Fox, London; Dr. J. Cargill, Kingstown, Jamaica; Dr. A. Foxwell, Birmingham; Dr. T. Fielding, Milton Abbas; Dr. J. W. Hayward, Liverpool; Mr. E. Duke, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. G. C. Kingsbury, Blackpool; Mr. J. A. Goodchild, London; The President of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Mr. J. J. Hicks, London; Mr. D. Grove, Berlin; Sir William Moore, London; Dr. A. MacDougall, Girvan; Mr. C. B. Lockwood, London; Dr. O. Wood, London; Dr. Rentoul, Liverpool; Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Company,

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Lectures on Obstetric Nursing. By Theophilus Parvin, M.D. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son, and Co. 1889.  
The Animal Alkaloids. By A. M. Brown, M.D. Second Edition. London: Hirschfeld Bros. 1889.  
Native Stories, Myths, and Phantasies. By Young Pan. London: Hamilton Adams and Co.  
London Ancient and Modern. By G. V. Poore, M.D., L.R.C.P. London: Cassell and Co., Limited. 1889.  
A Treatise on Gout. By Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D. Edin. London: Charles Griffin and Co. 1889.  
Watts's Dictionary of Chemistry. By M. M. Pattison Muir, M.A., and H. F. Morley, M.A., D.Sc. In four vols. Vol. II. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1889.

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