
British Medical Association Museum, 1890.

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EXTRACT FROM THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL," AUGUST 25, 1888.

REPORT ON THE EXHIBITS AT THE GLASGOW MUSEUM.

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ALCOHOL IN WORKHOUSES AND GENERAL HOSPITALS.

DR. A. G. MCHATTIE (Antigua, W.I.) writes: "M.D." in his letter on "Alcohol in Workhouses and General Hospitals" in the JOURNAL of May 24th, 1890, seems desirous of arriving at a just conclusion as to the proper position of alcohol in the treatment of disease.

If "M.D." will apply to alcohol one of the first principles which I sup. ose guides every medical man in the administration of drugs, and give it just as he would opium—when it alone will fulfil the object in view—his difficulty will soon disappear, and he will have reduced alcohol to its legitimate place in medicine.

I have acted on this principle for many years in public and in private practice, and the result has been most satisfactory. I take the liberty of giving one example of my experience in the use of alcohol in my practice. In August, 1878, in the absence of the surgeon of the prison in this island, I accepted the acting appointment, which I held for seven months. When I took charge, there were seventeen prisoners in hospital, and their allowance of spirits was eighteen ounces of brandy daily. Applying the principle just enunciated, I could not detect the slightest indication for alcohol in a single case. I consequently discontinued its use; and during the seven months that I attended this institution, acting on the same principle, I used only six ounces of brandy, though, besides the usual amount of illness in the gaol, I had sixty cases of dysentery, and thirty cases of dysenteric diarrhoea, all of whom recovered; and the books of the gaol show that there had never been a lower death-rate than during that time.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL NOTES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A. B. (British Columbia) writes: With regard to the discussions still carried on as to the possible fishy origin of leprosy, it may be interesting to know that this disease is unknown amongst the Indians of British Columbia, although the principal food of these people consists of fish. The fish prepared for winter use is mostly roughly and imperfectly cured, and overpoweringly disagreeable in odour, more than half decayed in many cases. If a diet of fish could produce leprosy, the Indians of British Columbia should be decimated by the disease. Salmon die in thousands in the Fraser and its upper reaches, and they are freely eaten both dead and dying, when the whole river is tainted by the odour of decaying fish.

Malarial fever is unknown in this country, though here, too, if its origin be climatic, it ought to be specially prevalent. The low-lying lands along the rivers are periodically flooded, through the melting of the snows in the three great mountain ranges; meadows and prairies are converted into lakes, and, when the water has subsided, thick mists ascend morning and evening for months. Yet these lands are not the least unhealthy.

Hydrophobia is another scourge of mankind which has not yet passed the barrier of the Rockies. If wild, neglected, masterless dogs could originate hydrophobia, this province should suffer acutely. The Indians love to surround their camps with wretched, often half starved, mongrel dogs; and in Vancouver the plague of ownerless dogs was so great that active measures had to be put in force for their destruction.

Diphtheria has found its way to this beautiful country, and rages with special fury amongst the young. Doubtless, were due inquiries made, the first case of diphtheria would prove to have been imported. Once imported, the utter absence of a system of drainage has enabled the disease to live and flourish, and to become endemic.

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

Mr. G. Lushington, London; Dr. C. W. Jones, Bowden; Dr. T. McCall Anderson, Glasgow; Mr. F. C. W. Hounsell, Chudleigh; Dr. C. Beavor, London; J. K. Tomory, M.B., Dumfries; Dr. T. Dutton, London; Mr. W. F. Haslam, Birmingham; Mr. E. Nettleship, London; Sir Walter Foster, M.P., Birmingham; Dr. G. H. The Savage, London; Mr. J. F. Spong, London; Messrs. R. Sumner and Co., Liverpool; Mr. C. B. Lockwood, London; J. D. Leigh, M.B., Jarrow; Dr. Balding, Royston; Mr. W. Gripper, Wallington; Mr. J. Kearney, London; Mr. J. G. Westlake, Bristol; Mr. T. F. Tannahill, Rochester; Mr. W. Gurner, London; Messrs. A. Palliser and Co., London; Mr. R. Stephens, Edinburgh; Mr. J. B. Ward, Oxford; Mr. C. J. Radley, London; Mr. P. G. Gilmour, Gorleston; Mr. D. Harden, Brisbane; Dr. G. Thin, London; Mr. F. White, Coventry; Mr. T. P. Gostling, Worcester; Dr. I. B. Muirhead, Aylesford; Dr. T. M. Madden, Dublin; Dr. W. D. Halliburton, London; Rev. C. Naylor, Gloucester; Mr. B. E. Brodhurst, London; Dr. J. G. Parsons, Bristol; Dr. Moritz, Cheetham; Mr. F. C. Brodie, Wootton Bridge; Mr. A. Fyfe, Hayes; Mr. J. T. Neech, Tyldesley; Medical Staff; J. C. G. Duffus, M.B., Springburn; E. F.; Hon. Conrad Dillon, London; Mr. R. Black, Brighton; Sir C. Cameron, Dublin; Mr. G. Rankin, Warwick; Dr. F. Warner, London; Dr. J. Haddon, Canonbie; Mr. J. P. Rae, London; Mr. W. H. Langton, London; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Dr. J. J. Ridge, Enfield; Dr. Rentoul, Liverpool; Surgeon Major; Dr. V. Lush, London; Dr. Kendal Franks, Dublin; Mr. C. Tyre, London; Professor Albertoni Pietro, Bologna; Mr. C. Legg, Stamford; Dr. Sedgwick Saunders, London; Dr. W. Lattey, Southam; Dr. A. C. Dixey, London; Dr. T. Eytan Jones, Wrexham; Professor B. C. Windle, Birmingham; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. E. Willoughby, London; Mr. W. Illingworth, Leeds; R. C. L.; Mr. H. G. Jerry, Bath; Professor O. Liebreich, Berlin; Dr. A. Tucker Wise, Maloja; Dr. H. O'Neill, Belfast; Dr. R. Saundby, Birmingham; Dr. Kelly, Taunton; Mr. T. J. Walker, Peterborough; Mr. C. B. Keetley, London; Mr. E. A. H. Roe, London; Mr. J. S. Wood, London; Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome, and Co., London; Dr. L. Cane, Peterborough; Mr. J. Wolff, London; Mr. D. S. Moncrieff, Edinburgh; Mr. T. H. Elliott, London; The Registrar of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin; Mr. L. Farndon, Maidenhead; Dr. W. C. Wile, Danbury, U.S.A.; Dr. W. Hunter, Ballantrae; Mr. E. Lloyd Jones, Leeds; Sir C. L. Peel, London; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. J. N. Love, St. Louis; Dr. W. J. Smyly,

Dublin; Dr. Ralph Stockman, Edinburgh; Mr. W. Wallis, Groombridge; Medicus; Dr. D. Graham, Boston; Dr. Pearse, Southsea; Mr. S. G. Allen, Dunfanaghy; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Mr. C. Carruthers, West Gorton; J. H. Keay, M.B., Colne; Professor T. Grainger Stewart, Edinburgh; R. H. Cook, M.B., Perth; Mr. J. P. Hentsch, London; Dr. R. J. H. Scott, Bath; Mr. J. M. Bright, Forest Hill; Dr. S. W. Briant, Tavistock; Mr. B. G. Godfrey, Balham; Major L. W. Pead, London; The Secretary of the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, London; Mr. S. J. Baker, Abingdon; Surgeon H. Tivy, Northampton; Mr. J. B. Gobe, Morriston; Mr. G. E. Williamson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. J. B. Fairmann, Dewsbury; Mr. E. Da Silva, Halifax; Mr. F. St. John Bullen, Wakefield; Mr. R. Favell, Sheffield; Miss E. C. Rogers, Saltash; The Clerk of the City of London Lunatic Asylum, Stone; Mr. F. L. Nicholls, Fulbourne; Mr. E. H. Howlett, Hull; Dr. W. P. Herringham, London; Dr. H. H. Phillips, Reading; Mr. O. Sunderland, Bexley Heath; Mr. A. Loxton, Birmingham; Dr. W. J. Sinclair, Manchester; Dr. R. P. Smith, London; The Secretary of the Sanitary Institute, London; R. H. F.; Mr. W. Jones-Morris, Portmadoc; Mr. C. E. Paget, Salford; Mr. M. C. Rimmer, London; E. Passmore, M.B., London; T. Stevenson, M.B., Liverpool; Dr. G. F. Crooke, Birmingham; H. N. Joynt, M.B., Birmingham; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Dr. W. J. Hamill, Manchester; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. Gozmann, Würzburg; Mr. C. E. Abbott, Braintree; Dr. J. W. Byers, London; Mr. Blackett, London; Dr. O. Wood, London; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. G. C. Stephen, London; Messrs. Brady and Martin, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. C. B. Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. A. Smart, Edinburgh; Mr. H. E. Skyrme, Cardiff; Messrs. Wilson and Son, Dublin; Mr. J. Garner, Birmingham; V. Wanostrocht, M.B., Biedgely; R. H. Shaw, M.B., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Messrs. Illingworth, Ingram, and Co., Leeds; Dr. J. S. Holden, Sudbury; E. E. Dyer, M.B., Edinburgh; Mr. J. Martin, Farnworth; Mr. G. H. Makins, London; Dr. Campbell Pope, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Mr. L. Mannings, Boscombe; Mr. H. Dutch, Melbourne, Derby; Mr. T. H. Moorhead, Cotehill; Dr. A. Grant, London; Mr. E. Alban, Lindfield; T. H. Bryce, M.B., Glasgow; Dr. R. Hewetson, London; Surgeon H. Carr, Waini Sal, N.W.P.; Mr. H. Hutchinsion, London; Surgeon-Major; Mr. J. Cantlie, Hong Kong; Mr. B. Kuhn, London; Surgeon-Major G. T. H. Evatt, Yetta; Mr. M. E. Sergeant, New South Wales; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

- Über die Functionen der Grosshirnrinde gesammelte Mittheilungen mit Anmerkungen. von Hermann Munk. Berlin: August Hirschwald. 1890.
- Fractures, Dislocations, Deformities, and Diseases of the Lower Extremities. By Hugh Owen Thomas. Part VII of Contributions to Surgery and Medicine. London: H. K. Lewis. 1890.
- Principles of General Organic Chemistry. By Professor R. Hjelt; translated from the author's German edition by J. Bishop Tingle, Ph.D., F.C.S. Price 6s. 6d. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1890.
- The Girdle of the Globe: a Poem. By Ralph. Price 7s. 6d. London: Authors Co-operative Publishing Co. 1890.
- Domestic Sanitary Drainage and Plumbing. By William R. Maguire. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co. 1890.
- Abortion and its Treatment; from the Standpoint of Practical Experience. By T. Gaillard Jones, M.D., from notes by P. Brynberg Porter, M.D. London: Hirschfeld Brothers. 1890.
- Des Troubles Trophiques dans l'Hystérie. Par Alex. Athanassio. Paris: E. Lecrosnier and Babé. 1890.

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