

## THE R. H. S. CARPENTER MEMORIAL FUND.

MR. JOHN PAGE HENTSCHE, M.R.C.S., Honorary Secretary to the Committee (201, Southampton Street, Camberwell, S.E.), asks us to announce the following additional subscriptions to this fund. [Amount previously acknowledged, £43 5s.]

	£	s.	d.
Dr. A. Kershaw ... ..	0	10	6
Dr. W. V. Lush ... ..	1	1	0
Dr. H. D. Pedley ... ..	1	1	0
Miss Whitfield (per Mr. Nelson Hardy) ...	2	2	0

## IRISH AND SCOTCH DIPLOMAS IN ENGLAND.

B.A., M.D. UNIV. DUB., writes: It appears to me that a great deal of nonsense has been written upon this subject recently, but surely your correspondent, "M.R.C.S. Eng.," has reached the climax in his letter which appears in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of August 2nd. He begins by asking us to consider the question "altogether apart from the value of their (Irish and Scotch) qualifications," but concludes his letter with the insinuation that these are decidedly inferior to the English. Let that pass.

The relative value of diplomas is a matter of very little interest to me. I believe that even an M.R.C.S. may be a good surgeon, but I cannot think that every F.R.C.S. must be. But your correspondent's attempted justification of the boycotting which is being increasingly practised against Irishmen and Scotchmen in England is remarkable. It amounts to this: Englishmen cannot get on in Ireland, so Irishmen shall not get on in our country. As an Australian, I may mention that Irish and Scotch diplomas are held in very high estimation in the colonies.

M.D. ABERD., writes: We are constantly having brought under our notice the question of the comparative value of English and Scotch medical degrees; but surely it is infinitely more important for the well-being of the community to ascertain which country turns out the more practical men. There are now (as there have been in the past) plenty of Scotch graduates, both in London and the provinces, who will compare very favourably with any of those belonging to the London University, both as regards theoretical and practical knowledge, and it appears to me that some of the London graduates are afraid lest they should receive in the estimation of the public a different position to which they consider themselves entitled.

## RESECTION OF THE OPTIC NERVE.

DR. CHAS. BELL TAYLOR, F.R.C.S. (Nottingham) writes: As I believe I am the only British surgeon who has had any extended experience of optic ciliary neurotomy and neurectomy, will you allow me to endorse Otto Sichel's favourite report—quoted in your leader—of this method of dealing with a lost eye. I introduced some patients who had been thus treated to the members of the Midland Branch of the British Medical Association at Leicester—one of whom still retains a foreign body—in 1882. I also read a paper on the subject at the annual meeting when held at Brighton four years ago, and it forms the text of one of my *Clinical Lectures*,<sup>2</sup> where those who are interested will find a detailed description of the operation.

## ASSISTANTS.

ONE MAN ONE PRACTICE writes: To show M.R.C.S. (1863), why he should not do certain things, I shall quote the words of Dr. Fothergill (1712-1780): "My only wish was to do what little business might fall to my share as well as possible; and to banish all thoughts of practising physic as a money-getting trade, with the same solicitude as I would the suggestions of vice or intemperance."

The "practice of medicine" is not a trade, but a profession. Even in trade the law of demand and supply has but a limited operation; but in medicine it should have no place whatever.

Cheap dispensaries and outdoor hospital relief are being roundly abused, but no efforts to sweeten the profession will command success that fail to regenerate the individual practitioners, or teach them to abolish from their practice the higgling process of the market: one man one practice being obligatory is only partially true; if it were wholly true there would be no assistants. The wealthier and more intelligent patients will certainly exact their due; but the poorer ones through ignorance or poverty, or both, will of compulsion take what they get. The labourer is worthy of his hire. In medicine that hire should be the reward of personal services, and no doctor should be allowed to keep an assistant for the purpose of gain. Success in medicine is measured by the skill to relieve suffering humanity, and not by a large bank account.

## EFFECTS OF CASTRATION IN THE FEMALE.

The following experience of a veterinary surgeon is of interest in relation to complete removal of the ovaries in our own species. M. Barthelmy states in the *Journal de Médecine Vétérinaire* that oestrus or "rut" can occur in pigs after complete removal of the ovaries. A professional spayer operated on thirty-eight young pigs under 60 days old, yet these animals showed the symptoms of "rut," at from 3 to 8 months, and monthly after that age, as though they had not been spayed. An action was brought against him after M. Barthelmy had given his opinion that the oestrus indicated incomplete removal of the ovaries. The defendant declared that he had seen oestrus in pigs which had been properly spayed. The court ordered that five of the pigs that showed all the phenomena of oestrus to the greatest extent should be killed and examined by a competent veterinary surgeon. This was done, and it was found that in each case the operation had been well performed, the ovaries, tubes, and almost the entire cornua of the uterus having been removed.

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

Mr. W. T. Stead, London; Dr. Strange, Worcester; Dr. Abercrombie, London; Dr. A. H. F. Barbour, Edinburgh; Dr. G. Thin, London; Mr. F. J. Rebman, London; Dr. G. E. Herman, London; Mr. J. B. James, London; Surgeon-Major Hume-Spry, London; Dr. E. Seaton, London; Dr. A. Macdonald, Liverpool; Dr. Hale White, London; Mr. J. H. Stacy, Norwich;

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Baths and Bathing. By Joseph Farrar, M.D., etc. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged. Bristol: John Wright and Co. Price 1s.

Queen's College, Birmingham, Calendar for Session 1890-91. Birmingham Hudson and Son.

Gefrierdurchschnitte zur Anatomie der Nasenhöhle. Herausgegeben von Professor Dr. B. Fränkel. Erstes Heft. Berlin: Verlag von August Hirschwald.

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NOTICE.—Advertisers are requested to observe that it is contrary to the Postal Regulations to receive at Post-Offices letters addressed to initials only.

<sup>1</sup> *Klin. Monatsbl. für Augenheilk.*, June, 1890.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. 1: Kegan Paul, Trench and Co.