

surgery boy. On my arrival I found the parcel contained about six-pennyworth of cigarette papers. Of course this "gentleman" calls out of hours. I hear my case is not the only one against this individual.

#### CONSAANGUINEOUS MARRIAGE.

MR. ALFRED H. HUTH (Bolney House, Ennismore Gardens, S.W.) writes: Is it not time that medical men should begin to learn that the citation of a few cases from their personal knowledge is, in nearly every instance, quite useless? In your last number a correspondent cites a few cases of consanguinity in parents producing bad effects in the offspring, apparently in entire ignorance that thousands of cases have been noted only to prove that such a system of observation is valueless. No one will blame a man in practice for ignorance on any special question, but when he attempts to teach before learning, he then does lay himself open to blame.

#### CHLOROFORM AND ITS ACCIDENTS.

MR. ALFRED H. MASON (agent for the Warrington Chemical Company, Jewin Street, E.C.) writes: In reference to the article on this subject in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of July 11th, I should like to be permitted to state that whilst commercial chloroform (chloroform *veale*) is recognised in the *United States Pharmacopoeia*, and may be used for linimentum chloroformi in that country, there is no instruction therein as to the process for its manufacture, and, as a matter of fact, it is simply intended as a starting point for the manufacture of chloroformum purificatum. Commercial chloroform is never sold there, nor is chloroform manufactured from alcohol in that country.

It is not in my province to discuss any particulars in reference to the increased mortality in cases where chloroform has been administered. All manufacturers are more or less interested in such cases, but there is little doubt in my mind that all the chloroform which is manufactured in this country is chemically pure, in so far that it answers to all the requirements of the *British Pharmacopoeia*, and is certainly suitable for anæsthetic purposes when it leaves the manufacturer, but I wish to lay down definitely the fact that when once such an article has been handed to the distributor, the responsibility of the manufacturer ceases absolutely.

It is the custom with most of the authorities of infirmaries and such institutions to send out tenders for their half-yearly supplies of drugs; amongst these chloroform is named. After prices are approved an order is given at once for the whole six months' supply. An average order for a fair sized institution would be about twelve Winchester quarts of chloroform. When required for use, one of these bottles is put upon the dispensary shelf, and used indiscriminately for all purposes as the dispenser has calls for it.

I would now respectfully suggest, in every case where an anæsthetist requires chloroform, that he insists upon having an unopened quarter of a pound bottle, with the manufacturer's label and band upon it, takes from it what he requires for the operation, and gives instructions for what remains in the bottle in every instance to be used up in the dispensary for other purposes. Such a bottle of pure chloroform would cost one shilling at the outside, bottle included, and this arrangement, if carried out, would be a protection to the manufacturer, and give the operator better assurance and security that no change could possibly have taken place in the chloroform either from lengthy exposure, or frequent unstoppering of the bottle.

#### BAD BERTRICH.

DR. A. GREENWOOD (Hornsey Rise Gardens, N.) writes: In a notice of a recent book on Carlsbad, published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of July 18th, a wonder is expressed that more English people suffering from chronic gastric and hepatic disorders do not avail themselves of that health resort. Perhaps one reason for this is the distance: three days or thereabouts are consumed in the journey, and the wearisome slowness of Continental trains is very fatiguing, even for those who are not invalids. A place suitable for similar cases, very much nearer home, does not appear to have been generally noticed by English physicians; I refer to Bad Bertrich, known as "the mild Carlsbad on the Mosel." Bertrich is about five miles from Alf, on the Mosel, and situated in a deep ravine amongst richly-wooded hills. The valley of the Alf, with its numerous side branches, is one of the most beautiful on the Mosel. Bertrich is now becoming other than a local health resort, as it is more accessible than formerly. It possesses two thermal springs, giving a large supply of water at 92° F., and having very similar composition to the Carlsbad water. It is less concentrated, not altogether a disadvantage, as in the opinion of Dr. Lauder Brunton the amount of water consumed is a very important factor in the treatment of certain diseases. Particularly is this the case in biliary concretions, a class of diseases which derive marked benefit by treatment at Bertrich. The town possesses good hotels and boarding houses, the charges being exceedingly low. There are open-air concerts morning and evening, and I believe *réunions* and other entertainments are frequently given.

Bertrich can be reached by train from either Coblenz or Trier in about three hours. Bullay is the nearest station, from which omnibuses run to the chief hotels. It can also be reached by steamer from Coblenz or Trier, the journey from either of these places to Alf being very charming.

For those who require perfect quiet, and to whom economy is an object, Bad Bertrich is to be warmly commended.

#### LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., received:

(A) Mr. B. Aspland, Barton-on-Humber; Dr. F. J. Allan, London. (B) Surgeon-General G. Bidie, Rosneath; W. T. Burr, M.B., Grays; Messrs. A. Bishop and Sons, London; Dr. Broom, Clifton; Mr. C. S. Buck, Milverton; Dr. E. K. Bourne, Kenilworth; Mr. R. D. Boase, Penzance; Mr. G. F. Blacker, London; Mr. G. F. W. Braide, Punjab; Mr. J. E. Briscoe, London; Bengal Medical Service; Mr. W. T. H. Blandford, London; Dr. C. Beretta, Paris; Mr. W. Brown, Northampton. (C) Messrs. Cassell and Co., London; Lieutenant-Colonel S.

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#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Ueber das Stottern. Von Dr. J. A. Ssikorski. Berlin: A. Hirschwald. 1891.  
Power through Repose. By Annie Payson Call. London: Sampson Low Marston and Co. 1891.  
Lehrbuch der organischen Chemie für Mediciner. Von Dr. Theodor Weyl. Berlin: A. Hirschwald. 1891.  
Epidemic Influenza. By Richard Sisley, M.D. London: Longmans Green and Co. 1891.

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