

SYMONS, John, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A., reappointed Surgeon to the West Cornwall Dispensary and Infirmary, Penzance.

WARNER, Francis, M.D.Lond., appointed an additional Examiner in Materia Medica at the University of Aberdeen, *vice* Professor Ralph Stockman, resigned.

WATT, James Peter, M.A., M.B., appointed an additional Examiner in Medical Jurisprudence and Public Health at the University of Aberdeen, *vice* Dr. Fred. W. Barry, deceased.

WEBBER, H. W., M.D., M.S.Lond., appointed Assistant Surgeon to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, *vice* R. H. Lucy, F.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon.

WHTAKER, E. J., M.B., C.M.Édin., appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Blymhill Rural District Council.

WOODHEAD, T. F., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., appointed Medical Officer for the Meltham District of the Huddersfield Union.

DIARY FOR NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC, Queen Square, W.C., 3.30 P.M.—Lecture by Dr. Ormerod.

WEST END HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, 73, Welbeck Street, W., 4.30 P.M.—Dr. Harry Campbell: Cases of Localised Muscular Wasting.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8.30 P.M.—Dr. Eden will give a lantern demonstration of the Age Changes which occur in the Placenta and Fœtal Membranes. Dr. T. J. Bokenham: The Immunisation of Animals against Streptococcus Infection, with an account of the Properties acquired by the Serum of Animals thus rendered Immune; with Lantern Illustrations.

CITY ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, 5.30 P.M.—Mr. Chisholm Williams: On Rachitic Deformities.

WEDNESDAY.

WEST LONDON POST-GRADUATE COURSE, West London Hospital, W., 5 P.M. Mr. McAdam Eccles: Emergency Operations.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, 20, Hanover Square, W., 8 P.M.—Specimens will be shown by Dr. Dakin and others. Annual Meeting. Dr. Cullingworth (President) will deliver the Annual Address.

THURSDAY.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, Post-Graduate Class, 4 P.M.—Mr. Wallis: Demonstration of Selected Surgical Cases.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, Stafford Rooms, Tichborne Street, Edgware Road, W., 8.30 P.M.—Mr. Mansell Moullin: The Treatment of Malignant Growths by Toxins.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Shadwell, 4 P.M.—Dr. H. B. Donkin: Cases in the wards.

FRIDAY.

WEST-LONDON MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, West London Hospital, Hammersmith, 8 P.M.—Discussion on the Transmission and Dissemination of Cancer; to be opened by Mr. C. A. Ballance.

WEST KENT MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY, Royal Kent Dispensary, Greenwich, 8.15 P.M.—Dr. G. Sims Woodhead will introduce a discussion on the Serum Treatment of Disease. The following members have promised to take part in the discussion—Drs. Toogood, Hartt, Dockrell, Herschell, and Ezard.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is 3s. 6d., which sum should be forwarded in post-office order or stamps with the notice not later than Wednesday morning in order to insure insertion in the current issue.

BIRTHS.

BÖDEKER.—At Harvey Hill, Kikuyu, British East Africa, on November 24th, 1897, the wife of Henry Albert Bödeker, M.B., C.M., of a son. Indian papers please copy.

HENSTOCK.—On December 24th, 1897, at Viña del Mar, Chile, the wife of J. L. Henstock, M.K.C.S., L.R.C.P., of a son.

YELF.—On January 22nd, at Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos., the wife of Robert E. B. Yelf, M.B., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DEMPSTER-HOWARTH.—On January 13th, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, by the Rev. G. Williams, M.A., William S. Dempster, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., of Winsley, South Croydon, to Nellie, third daughter of the late James Howarth, of Balham.

HAYLOCK-LOW.—At Seaview, Monifieth, on January 13th, by the Rev. Jas. Gerard Young, D.D., John G. Haylock, M.D., Medical Superintendent, Royal Asylum, Sunnyside, Montrose, to Edith Margaret, third daughter of James F. Low, Esq., of Seaview, Monifieth, Forfarshire, and Balmakewan, Kincardineshire.

KENNEDY-HUTCHINS.—On January 26th, at St. Mary's, Cadogan Street, S.W., by the Rev. M. A. Kelly, John Kennedy, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Lond., of Camberwell, to Susie Ascott, only daughter of Walter Hutchins, of Knightsbridge, S.W.

SUTTON-RICHARDS.—On December 10th, 1897, at Quetta, Baluchistan, by the Rev. A. E. Ball, Samuel Walter Sutton, M.D., B.S.Lond., to Margaret, eldest daughter of the late Dr. Richards, of Ross, Herefordshire.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AND OPERATION DAYS AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CANCER, Brompton (Free). Attendances—Daily, 2. **Operations**—Tu. F. S., 2.

CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC. Attendances—Daily, 1. **Operations**—Daily.

CENTRAL LONDON THROAT, NOSE, AND EAR. Attendances—M. W. Th. S., 2; Tu. F., 5. **Operations**—1-p., Tu., 2.30; o-p., F., 2.

CHARING CROSS. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th., 1.45; Dental, M., 9; Throat and Ear, F., 9.30. **Operations**—Th. F., 8, 2.

CHLORISIA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN. Attendances—Daily, 1.30. **Operations**—M. Th. F., 2.

CITY ORTHOPÆDIC. Attendances—M. Tu. Th. F., 2. **Operations**—M., 4.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN. Operations—M. W. Th. F., 2.

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. W. Th. F., 9.30; Obstetric, M., 2.30; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Throat and Ear, Tu. F., 2.30; Skin, W., 2.30; Dental, W., 2. **Operations**—M. W. Th. F., 2.

GUY'S. Attendances—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Ear, Tu., 1; Skin, Tu., 1; Dental, daily, 9; Throat, F., 2. **Operations**—Tu. F., 1.30; (Ophthalmic) M., 1.30; Th., 2.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho. Attendances—Daily, 10. **Operations**—M. Th., 2.

KING'S COLLEGE. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; Obstetric, daily, 2; o-p., daily, 1.30; Eye, M. W. Th., 1.30; Ear, Th., 2.30; Throat, M., 1.30; F., 2; Dental, M. Th., 10; Skin, W., 1.30. **Operations**—W. Th. F., 2.

LONDON. Attendances—Medical, daily, 1-p., 2, o-p., 1.30; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Tu. Th. F., 2; o-p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, Tu. S., 9; Ear, W., 9; Skin, Th., 9; Dental, Tu., 9. **Operations**—Daily, 2.

LONDON TEMPERANCE. Attendances—Medical, M. Tu. W. Th. F., 1.30; Surgical, M. Th., 1.30. **Operations**—M. Th., 4.30.

METROPOLITAN. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; S., 9; Obstetric, W., 2; Eye, W., 2; Throat and Ear, Th., 2; Dental, Tu. Th. S., 9. **Operations**—Tu. W., 2.30; Th., 4.

MIDDLESEX. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th., 1.30; o-p., M., 9; W., 1.30; Eye, Tu. F., 9; Ear and Throat, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Tu., 4; Th., 9.30; Dental, M. F., 9.30; W., 9. **Operations**—Daily, 1.30.

NATIONAL ORTHOPÆDIC. Attendances—M. Tu. Th. F., 2. **Operations**—W., 10.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN. Attendances—Daily, 2; Ophthalmic, W. S., 9.30. **Operations**—Tu. F., 9.

NORTH-WEST LONDON. Attendances—Medical, daily, exc. S., 2, S., 10; Surgical, daily, exc., W., 2, W., 10; Obstetric, W., 2; Eye, W., 9; Skin, F., 2; Dental, F., 9. **Operations**—Th., 2.30.

ROYAL EYE, Southwark. Attendances—Daily, 2. **Operations**—Daily.

ROYAL FREE. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; Diseases of Women, Tu. S., 9; Eye, M. F., 9; Skin, Th., 9; Throat, Nose, and Ear, W., 9. **Operations**—W. S., 2; (Ophthalmic), M. F., 10.30; (Diseases of Women), S., 9.

ROYAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC. Attendances—Daily, 9. **Operations**—Daily, 10.

ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC. Attendances—Daily, 12.30 and 1. **Operations**—M., 2.

ROYAL WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC. Attendances—Daily, 1. **Operations**—Daily, 2.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 2; o-p., W. S., 9; Eye, M. Tu. W. Th. S., 2; o-p., M. Th., 9; W. S., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 2; Skin, Tu., 9; Larynx, Tu. F., 2.30; Orthopedic, M., 2.30; Dental, Tu. F., 8. **Electrical**, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30. **Operations**—Daily, 1.30; (Ophthalmic), Tu. F., 2; Abdominal Section for Ovariectomy, F., 2.

ST. GEORGE'S. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1-p., 1; o-p., 12; Obstetric, 1-p., Tu. F., 1.45; o-p., M. Th., 2.30; Eye, W. S., 1.30; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, W., 2.45; Throat, F., 2; Orthopedic, F., 12; Dental, M. Tu. F., S., 12. **Operations**—Daily, 1; Ophthalmic, M., 1; Dental, Th., 9.

ST. MARK'S. Attendances—Fistula and Diseases of the Rectum, males S., 2; females, W., 9.30. **Operations**—M., 9; Tu., 2.30.

ST. MARY'S. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.45; o-p., 12.45; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.45; o-p., M. Th., 1.0; Eye, Tu. F., 9; Ear, M. Th., 9; Throat, Tu. F., 9; Skin, M. Th., 9; Dental, W. S., 9; Electro-therapeutics, M. Th., 2.30; Children's Medical, Tu. F., 9. **Operations**—M., 2.30; Tu. W. F., 2; Th., 2.30; S., 10; (Ophthalmic), F., 10.

ST. PETER'S. Attendances—M., 2.30; Tu. W. F., 2; Th., 2; F. (Women and Children), 2.30. **Operations**—W. F., 2.

ST. THOMAS'S. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. Th. F., 2; o-p., daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 2; o-p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, Tu. F., 2; o-p., daily, exc. S., 1.30; Ear, M., 1.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Throat, Tu. F., 1.30; Children, S., 1.30. **Electro-therapeutics**, o-p., Th., 2; Mental Diseases, o-p., Th., 10; Dental, Tu. F., 10. **Operations**—M. W. Th. S., 2; Tu. F., 3.30; (Ophthalmic), Th., 2; (Gynecological), Th., 2.

SAMARITAN FREE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Attendances—Daily, 1.30. **Operations**—Gynecological, M., 2; W., 2.30.

THROAT, Golden Square. Attendances—Daily, 1.30; Tu. F., 6.30. **Operations**—Daily, exc. M., 10.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetrics, M. F., 1.30; Eye, M. W., 1.30; Ear, M. Th., 9; Skin, Tu. F., 2; Throat, M. Th., 9; Dental, Tu. F., 9.30. **Operations**—Tu. W. Th., 2.

WEST LONDON. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 2; Dental, Tu. F., 9.30; Eye, Tu. Th., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; S., 10; Orthopedic, W., 2; Diseases of Women, W. S., 2; Electro-therapeutics, M. Th., 2; Skin, M. F., 2; Throat and Nose, Tu., 2; S., 10. **Operations**—Daily, about 2.30. F., 10.

WESTMINSTER. Attendances—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, Tu. F., 9.30; Ear, Tu., 1.30; Skin, W., 1.30; Dental, W. S., 9.15. **Operations**—M. Tu. W., 2.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CURRENT WEEK'S JOURNAL SHOULD REACH THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN MIDDAY POST ON WEDNESDAY. TELEGRAMS CAN BE RECEIVED ON THURSDAY MORNING.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 429 Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 429, Strand, W.C., London.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate beforehand with the Manager, 429, Strand, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that all letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not to his private house.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, on forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with duplicate copies.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Attitology, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are directed will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

SUBSCRIBER wishes advice as to what might be done for the education of a young lady, aged 20, recently deprived of mother, who is backward mentally and physically, has harelip and cleft palate; speech rather indistinct, memory good. Father able and willing to pay fair fees.

DEFECTIVE ARTICULATION.

INQUIRENS desires to hear of an institution or home where for a moderate sum a lad aged 14 who is dull but *compos mentis*, who has difficulty with the consonants, and cannot pronounce g's or c's, saying "det" for "get" and "tut" for "cut," could be taught and improved in these respects.

HOME FOR IMBECILE GIRL.

J. S. L. asks if there is any charitable or other institution that would undertake the care of an imbecile girl of 12 years of age. Her father is a working man who can ill afford anything towards her maintenance. He would be glad if a Bristol member would inform him if there is any institution of the kind in that city.

* * We are indebted to Mr. Douglas Dent, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Associated Bristol Charities, for the following detailed answer to our correspondent's inquiry: "J. S. L." should apply to the Poor-Law guardians for such a case as is described by him. There is no Bristol institution for reception of imbeciles or idiots, and, as a rule, we should look to send such cases to the Western Counties Idiot Asylum, Stourcross, Exeter, which is for the reception and training of private and pauper cases, at 9s. a week if from the four western counties of Dorset, Somerset, Devon, or Cornwall, and at 12s. from other counties. If it should be only a "feeble-minded" child—a point determinable only by proper medical opinion—there is a recently-established home—the "Mary Carpenter"—for 15 girl inmates, but probably not for distant cases. The Honorary Secretary is Mrs. Gilmore Barnett, 7, Great George Street, Bristol. Rate of payment, 5s. to 7s. a week.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH would be glad to know of any sanitary authority who allows any practitioner residing in their district to have his cases of diphtheria or typhoid verified by culture at their expense.

RUBBER TYRES TO VEHICLES.

DR EDGAR G. BARNES, Eye, Suffolk, writes: Can any of your readers who are experienced in the use of solid rubber tyres on broughams, etc., tell me whether, on account of their noiselessness, it is necessary or advisable to have bells attached to the horses.

THE ESTIMATION OF ALBUMEN.

F. R. HIST. SOC. asks whether the estimation of albumen in urine by means of Esbach's albuminometer is vitiated (so far, at least, as to be practically unreliable for clinical purposes) when applied in the case of a patient to whom methyl blue is being administered? If so, what other convenient method of estimation is suggested in these circumstances?

ASEPTIC SURGERY.

SIGMA asks to be referred to books or pamphlets dealing with the advance of aseptic treatment in surgery during the last twenty-five years.

* * Among the most recent books on the subject are: (1) *Antiseptic Surgery: its History, Principles, Practice, and Results*, by W. Watson Cheyne (Smith, Elder and Co., 1882); (2) *Aseptic Surgery*, by C. B. Lockwood (Young J. Pentland, 1896).

PRACTICE IN THE COLONIES.

G. (Ontario, Canada) writes: If "Emigrant," who sought information on this subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 1st, will write to the following agencies he will doubtless secure the desired information regarding Canada: (1) The Medical Agency of Canada, 17, Ross Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (2) Dr. W. E. Hammill, James Building, Toronto, Canada. (3) Dr. W. H. Merry, Lynn, Mass., U.S.A. This last deals with United States mainly; to a slight extent with Canada.

PENDULOUS UVULA.

MR. A. V. CROSSING, M.R.C.S. (Plymouth) writes: I was called one midnight to see a man who was taken suddenly ill with something in his throat, and was very pale; such was the statement of his sister who came for me. Upon my arrival at the house about five minutes after, he walked into the room I was in, mumbling something most inarticulately, which I could not understand, coughing violently, and pointing to his throat. Whilst his sister was getting me a spoon he bent his head downwards, coughed a few times, drew a deep breath, then said "he was all right." He informed me he felt as if something had been drawn into his throat, and that with the effort of coughing it had burst. I examined his throat, and found it intensely congested, with a relaxed and extremely pendulous uvula, which was slightly excoriated at the tip. He said he was afraid to go to bed for fear the same thing might happen again. A similar occurrence, he stated, took place about fifteen years ago. The patient was otherwise healthy. Am I right in concluding that the uvula had been drawn into the rima glottidis?

ANSWERS.

THE HISTORY OF THE MEDICAL STUDENT.

DR. J. HAROLD BAILEY (Pendleton) writes: G. F. B. will find numerous references which may prove of use to him in my articles on "The Medical Student as a Character in Fiction," published in the *Medical Magazine* for 1894.

TREATMENT OF TERTIARY SYPHILIS.

DR. C. M. JESSOP (Redhill) writes: May not the condition "Cyclops" describes be partially the result of the drugs and oleate ointment keeping up irritation? I should be inclined to give cod-liver oil, some simple syrup of iron, and opium internally; also a watery solution of opium externally if required.

ADENOID VEGETATIONS.

A PARENT.—Our correspondent will find an interesting discussion upon the subject of Post-Nasal Growths in Children, which took place at the Harveian Society of London, reported in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 18th, 1893, p. 355. The subject is also fully discussed in most works on laryngology and rhinology.

FREQUENT MICTURITION.

DR. C. M. JESSOP (Redhill) writes: Has "H. S. B." examined for stricture? If none found, he might obtain relief by epispastic fluid above the pubes, or over spine in region of centre of micturition.

DR. PERCY NEWELL (Crowborough) writes: If your correspondent "H. S. B." will try the following mixture with his little patient he will probably benefit his case: R. Tinct. *lycopodium clar.*, ʒiiss; tinct. *cardam. co.*, ʒiiss; syrup. simp., ʒss; aq. q.s. in ʒvj; ft. mist., Sig. ʒss, 4tis horis sum. This prescription I saw recommended by Dr. Macfie Campbell in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 4th, 1895. In the JOURNAL of May 2nd, 1896, p. 1089, are some hints on treatment of this condition by Dr. O'Connell Redmond. I consider the *lycopodium* mixture much superior to either belladonna or atropine.

NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

A DISCLAIMER.

DR. ETHEL M. N. WILLIAMS (Newcastle-on-Tyne) writes: My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the *Newcastle Daily Journal* for Monday, January 17th, under the head of some physiology lectures which I was announced to give. I need not say that I was extremely annoyed at the appearance of the paragraph, and that I knew nothing of it till I saw it in print.

NOTE ON THE DRAINAGE OF LARGE CAVITIES AFTER SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

DR. ERNEST A. T. STEELE (Southend-on-Sea) writes: In the *Annals of Surgery* for April, 1896, is a description by Dr. Dawbarn of a siphon apparatus for bladder drainage, etc., which is similar in principle to that described by Mr. Heaton, and even more simple and less expensive.

MUSCULAR EXERTION IN CYCLING.

DR. C. M. JESSOP (Redhill) writes: If my method of solving this question in animal mechanics on p. 195 is not correct, it is clear that Dr. Harry Campbell has not the right method when he would estimate the traction by pulling a cycle and rider along a given distance of level road. How does he propose to ascertain the traction or energy of the cycle rider by introducing an outside power? Walking on a level surface is equivalent to raising $\frac{1}{2}$ part of the weight of the body through the distance walked. In the formula I gave 20 is the coefficient of traction; what will it be for cycling? That is the point. Friction, condition of road, position of body or skill in cycling, gearing of the machine—all important in considering gradients—may be left out in the general question of energy on the level for simple propulsion. It is a physiologist's question, and reference to the writings of the late Dr. Houghton might settle it.

Perhaps the following consideration may help to solve the problem proposed: In walking, friction proceeds in two lines, is at a maximum, and reduces the coefficient of traction. In cycling, friction proceeds only in one line, is at a minimum, and this coefficient of traction is doubled. Again, the time in covering a given distance is halved and fatigue lessened. The outcome will be that 40 miles on a cycle will equal 20 miles walking, or work equal to 353.4 foot-tons—a fair day's work.

COLONIAL REGISTERS AND THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

A CORRESPONDENT recently sent us an advertisement page from a paper published, we believe, in New South Wales. The page contained an advertisement of a person who, we are informed upon inquiry, was removed from the list of Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England some few years ago. We are further informed that, owing to the fact that the Australasian colonies have or had no provision in their Medical Acts for the removal from the Colonial Registers on the ground of misconduct of the names or qualification of any practitioner when registered, the Council of the College of Surgeons have been unable to prevent a person removed from the list of Members of the College from continuing to call himself a Member of the College.

GENUINE AND SPURIOUS CACTUS GRANDIFLORUS.

DR. GORDON SHARP (Leeds) writes: Within the last few years liquid extract and tincture of night-blooming cereus has been brought before the members of the medical profession of Great Britain as a remedy in various heart affections, functional and organic. The plant belongs to the natural order Cactaceae, and is cultivated in the tropics and in hot-houses in our own country; and the parts employed are the fleshy stems and flowers. The correct botanical name is "cactus grandiflorus," but it is more commonly known as "cactus grandiflorus." The fresh plant is employed, and from the fact of its containing much chlorophyll preparations of cereus have a beautiful green hue. Un-

fortunately a spurious cereus has been largely put in the market and sold as the genuine drug. Mr. E. M. Holmes, curator of the Pharmaceutical Society's Museum in London, has pointed out that this spurious plant is *Opuntia decumana*. The mistake has probably arisen on account of *Opuntia* being sometimes known as *Cactus Opuntia*. Preparations of *Opuntia*—that is, of the spurious cactus—are either brownish or yellowish in colour, owing to the presence of a large proportion of xanthophyll in the plant.

Cereus contains a very small amount of alkaloid with some glucosidal resinous bodies. *Opuntia* contains several resins, but almost no (if any) alkaloid or true glucoside. But neither plant appears to possess any important active ingredient, and I incline to the belief that neither *Cereus* nor *Opuntia* has any therapeutic value; still there are those who ascribe virtues to *Cereus*. Medical men should therefore see that the drug they prescribe for their patients is genuine. I may add that practitioners who have employed preparations of *Opuntia* in the firm belief that they were using *Cereus* have got results usually ascribed to the genuine drug. Those interested in the plant and its therapeutics will find the following useful: Holmes, *Pharm. Journ.*, August 21st, 1897; Jones, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, January, 1890, page 70; Williams, *Practitioner*, volume xvii, page 223 (1891); Sharp, *Practitioner*, September, 1894, and *Pharm. Journ.*, November 24th, 1894.

A NEW LINE OF RESEARCH.

The new hydraulic laboratory which is in course of erection for Cornell University ought to prove of great value to those investigating the conditions of life of bacteria in water on a large scale. To waterworks engineers and what may be called engineer biologists the plant to be provided will afford the means of attacking many hitherto unsolved problems. Amongst the work in contemplation is a series of experiments designed to determine the possibility of populating potable water with forms of life capable of destroying dangerous organisms, and yet strong enough in their struggle for life to survive in sufficient numbers under the artificial conditions of large reservoirs and supply pipes, the conditions of organic life in which are as yet hardly known.

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

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