

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 2, Agar Street, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

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

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 at 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 at his private house.

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

TELEPHONE (National):—  
EDITOR, GENERAL SECRETARY AND MANAGER,  
2631, Gerrard. 2630, Gerrard.

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

### QUERIES.

JOHN BELL OF EDINBURGH.

M. J. inquires as to the probable value of *Letters on professional character and manners on the education of a Surgeon, and the duties and qualifications of a Physician, addressed to James Gregory, M.D., professor of the practice of medicine in the University of Edinburgh*. By John Bell, Surgeon. Edinburgh: Archibald Constable and Co. 1810.

\*\* A work dealing with a long-forgotten controversy fetches nothing in the open market unless by reason of its rarity, its fine condition, or its binding, and our correspondent's copy does not seem to possess any of these qualities. Nevertheless, these letters of John Bell are extremely interesting as giving a picture of a time when the hospital career of a first-rate surgeon at Edinburgh could be marred by the opposition of a single professor. John Bell was born in 1763 and died in 1820. He was skilled equally as a writer and a surgeon, and was the elder brother of Sir Charles Bell, born in 1774.

THE CAUSES OF BLINDNESS.

THE President of the New York State Commission to investigate the condition of the blind asks for the assistance and advice of the medical profession with regard to the causes of blindness and the methods by which unnecessary blindness may be prevented. Reprints, reports, pamphlets, or personal communications are asked for on the following subjects:

Congenital Blindness:

Its causes, the influence of heredity, consanguinity, etc.  
The reports of cases of blind parents producing blind children, character of blindness in such cases, etc.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum:

How generally are preventive measures employed?  
Statistics bearing on the subject.  
What silver salt and in what strength should be recommended?

Trachoma and other Infectious Eye Diseases.

Statistics.  
How may early treatment be secured?  
Prevalence in schools, orphan asylums, etc.  
Preventive measures—medical inspection of schools.

Blindness from Accident, Injuries, Fireworks, Toy Pistols, etc.:

Statistics.  
Method of protection for eyes of workmen and others.  
Prohibition of dangerous explosives at celebrations.

Toxic Amblyopia:

From methyl-alcohol—other toxic agents. How may the public be protected?

Neglect on the Part of Patients Visiting Dispensaries:

Patients suffering from conditions threatening vision absent themselves from clinics after being advised of the need of immediate treatment until too late. Method of reaching such.

Blindness due to Neglect of Slight Ophthalmic Injuries:

How can early treatment be more generally secured?  
Blindness due to Improper Hygiene and Sanitation in Corneal Troubles of Children:

How can early treatment be secured?

Other Causes of Blindness:

Suggestions as to prevention.

Communications may be addressed to the President, Dr. F. Park Lewis, 454, Franklin Street, Buffalo; or the Secretary, Mr. O. H. Burritt, M.A., Batavia, N. Y.

### ANSWERS.

IGNARENT.—Terpin hydrate is soluble in fourteen parts of alcohol (90 per cent.), and this solution can be diluted with water without precipitation; it only dissolves in chloroform to the extent of 1 in 200, so that it seems probable that our correspondent is not using true terpin hydrate.

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS WITH TUBERCULIN.

A CORRESPONDENT asks to be recommended a suitable book dealing with the treatment of phthisis and other tuberculous diseases with tuberculin. We are not acquainted with any book specially devoted to the subject, but in many recent articles, published in various journals, treatment with tuberculin is discussed. It is generally considered desirable that the treatment should be controlled by determinations of the patient's opsonic index, and our correspondent will probably find that some of the articles relating to opsonins furnish the information he requires concerning the use of tuberculin. We advise him to read Dr. Herbert French's address on Opsonins and their Utility in Practical Medicine (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, February 2nd, 1907, p. 256). Dr. French gives clear, practical directions for the therapeutic use of tuberculin, and at the end of his article adds useful references to other literature on the subject. Our correspondent might also be interested in the article on tuberculosis by Drs. Sidney Martin and Bosanquet in Allbutt and Rolleston (*System of Medicine*, Vol. ii, Part I. Macmillan and Co.).

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A PREMATURE OBITUARY.

WE are requested to state that the Students' Union of St. Bartholomew's Hospital regrets very much that the name and address of E. D. Fitzgerald, M.R.C.S., of Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, was included in the "Obituary List of Bartholomew's Men" published in the *Students' Union Year Book* for 1906. Mr. Fitzgerald is alive and well, and the Union hopes to be excused for any pain which has been caused by the mistake made.

A LASTING CURE.

THE following, which the Edinburgh *Student* attributes to a well-known physician, deserves a place among "things one would rather have expressed otherwise": "Pulmonary tuberculosis of long standing tends to heal spontaneously. You can see this for yourselves, gentlemen, by following your cases to the *post-mortem* table."

HOMOEOPATHY.

DR. WM. CASH REED (Liverpool) writes: With reference to Sir Samuel Wilks's remark on the above subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 2nd, p. 287, "I have reason to believe that homoeopathy has not taken any strong hold of the lower orders," I should like point out that during the year 1905 the attendances at the two homoeopathic dispensaries in this city were 89,528.

THE LADY AND THE LARYNX.

THE highly-developed *fleur* with which ladies of a certain age, especially those who have eschewed the perils of matrimony, discover indecency in unsuspected places is comparable only to the keenness of scent with which medicine men "smell out" witches. The following is an instance. A large hospital is privileged to have an unmarried lady on its Board of Management. Wandering in maiden meditation fancy free about the building, she saw hanging in the room of one of the physicians some pictures which severely shocked her modesty. She reported the matter to the Board, urging that, as the room was open to any one who chose to go into it, the objectionable pictures should be removed. The Board appointed a subcommittee, consisting of a doctor and a retired colonel, to inspect the *corpora delicti*. They reported that the pictures were coloured drawings of the larynx!

STREETS NAMED AFTER DOCTORS.

MR. F. SHILLINGTON SCALES (Cambridge) writes: I have not seen Harvey Road, Cambridge, mentioned in your list.

### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Eight lines and under	...	...	...	£0 4 0
Each additional line	...	...	...	0 0 6
A whole column	...	...	...	2 13 4
A page	...	...	...	8 0 0

An average line contains six words.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, at the Office, not later than first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication; and if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

Post-Office Orders should be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. Small amounts may be paid in postage stamps.

N.B.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive letters at *Postes Restantes* addressed either in initials or numbers.