

At other times I may think I am a little "run down," as the Americans say. It remains an uncertain time, sometimes for many days, sometimes only for hours, and goes away as suddenly and unexpectedly as it came. The misery and irritation it causes while it lasts no one who has not suffered from it can imagine. My left ear is much better than my right; it is the one I prefer for stethoscopic work. When the tinnitus is on, it is almost useless. Although over 54, and "retired," I have not met any one who can hear the ticking of a watch at a greater distance than I can with my left ear when it is in good working order. The tinnitus began some years ago, and, except when actually present, has not so far affected the hearing.

NOTES, LETTERS, Etc.

ERRATUM.—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of February 17th, p. 375, Dr. Fletcher Beach was described as "President-elect of the Branch," instead of President of the Thames Valley Branch and President-elect of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS RELIEF FUND.

SURGEON-MAJOR VALENTINE MATTHEWS, V.M.S.C., Honorary Secretary, Headquarters, London Company, V.M.S.C., 51, Calthorpe Street, W.C., writes: This fund is established to assist the families on or off the strength of non-commissioned officers and men of Royal Army Medical Corps on active service in South Africa. All moneys received will be handed over to the Royal Army Medical Corps Depot Mobilisation Relief Fund, Aldershot.

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TREATMENT OF COLITIS.

MR. J. NUMA RAT, M.R.C.S.Eng., Magistrate of Anguilla (St. Kitts, West Indies), writes: I have noticed in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, October 11th, 1899, a request for advice regarding the treatment of a case of catarrhal colitis, and, as I have lately cured a patient who had been suffering from this disease for seven years, I beg to communicate to your correspondent the treatment which proved successful: Two enemata of a quart of warm water were administered in close succession, night and morning, by means of an Alpha bag placed at a considerable height above the patient. These, having cleared the colon, were immediately followed during the first month by an enema night and morning of a quart of warm water containing 20 grs. of potassium permanganate, and during the second month by a similar one of unheated water in which the permanganate was replaced by mxl of formalin. During the third month, and from the end of that time to the present—which is a period of two months—the patient has used two enemata of a quart of unheated plain water every morning, and by this means has hitherto prevented any return of the complaint. The patient was not restricted to any particular diet, inasmuch as a previous course of a strictly milk diet during nine months, the last three of which were spent in bed, had been prescribed by me and followed very carefully without any benefit.

OCEAN VOYAGES IN PULMONARY PHTHISIS.

DR. G. F. INGLETT (Malta) writes: Dr. H. J. Jones writes in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of January 6th, 1900, that "he is sorry to see the old idea of sea voyages for phthisis advocated again." He calls it an "old idea," but to be called old it must have stood the criticism of all times and ages, and must have consequently been formed upon a strong foundation—that is to say, minute observation and long experience.

If eminent practitioners have again had recourse to sea voyages in treating phthisical patients, it clearly shows that these have proved beneficial to other patients. We never meant to send to sea patients in an advanced stage of the disease; but Dr. Jones will admit that there is a real benefit in the first stage when patients are still able to enjoy exercise on deck. Let Dr. Jones send his patients at the outset of the disease, and in the summer months, when they can get fine weather, and not in winter time, as did the cases he mentioned, and he will realise the good effects derived therefrom.

I can bring forward many instances to prove my assertions, such as the case of a priest who was advised by an eminent Maltese practitioner (Dr. Adami) to take several voyages to check the disease from which he had been already suffering for some time. This gentleman, after having travelled for two years, returned to Malta in perfect health, so much so that he lived up to the age of 74 years.

Another interesting case is that of an Englishwoman who had to leave Malta to follow her husband, leaving a daughter behind. The mother profited a great deal from the sea voyages she underwent for several years, for she returned to Malta only a few months ago in very good health, while the daughter who was left behind is under my treatment for consumption.

Even in the time of Christopher Columbus the good effects of sea voyages were recognised; in fact, I remember reading in an old Spanish book that one of the crew who accompanied the discoverer of America suffered from phthisis, and on his return to Lisbon after the long voyage he was perfectly cured.

PARTURITION AMONG THE ESKIMOS.

It has been said by many writers that the higher the development of the nervous system the more sensitive it is to pain, and the more severely does it respond to shock. In a recent article in the *Pacific Medical Journal*, Dr. Gleaves has had the opportunity of putting on record his experience on the above subject, having had the rare opportunity of being in attendance during the confinement of an Eskimo woman. He states that it is seldom that a "calblona" (white man) physician is permitted to witness this function among the Eskimo races. It is the custom not to allow a childbirth to take place in the "igloo," or house. The woman must go out into the woods or scrub alone, no one being

allowed to be present, and she must remain there with no food except a piece of dried fish for "five sleeps," when she is allowed to return to the igloo. Then she and her husband proceed to take a bath and to change their undergarments for fresh ones. Gleaves describes the birth of the child witnessed by him as taking place in Alaska at a time when the temperature was about 30° below zero. The mother was found by him hidden in the scrub in a snowpit which was oval in shape, and about 2 feet broad by 6 feet long. She lay on a reindeer skin with no covering of any kind, and the only warmth obtained was that given off by a smoky fire made with twigs. "On my arrival at the parturient field," says Gleaves, "I found the woman in labour on her knees, with buttocks resting on her heels, and having severe bearing-down pains which came faster and faster and more severe until almost continuous when the 'bag of waters' ruptured." The child was speedily born and "hæmorrhage occurred, but she soon rallied again and expelled the placenta, whereupon she took a piece of sinew (which had been prepared from the hock of a caribou) and ligatured the cord as close to the umbilicus as possible, and then severed the cord close to the ligature with a piece of serrated flint. She washed the babe in the snow, although it rebelled by kicking and squalling at such a cold reception. The woman wore a belt or a piece of thong to confine her 'parka' around the waist, and to it was fastened by short deerskin thongs bits of ivory, buttons, leather bags, in which she kept tobacco, matches, and other small articles of value. After the snow bath she placed her babe underneath the folds of her 'parka,' which is the usual place of the young Eskimo, and proceeded in a bent-over position, with a staff in hand, stepping slowly and laboriously, leaving a trail of blood, to another snow pit about 50 feet away, which had been prepared. She would not remain any length of time where the baby was born, for it is considered unclean." It is said that the mortality of both mothers and babes compares favourably with that which prevails in the United States.

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BOOKS, Etc., RECEIVED.

The Illustrated Annual of Microscopy. Kirkes's Handbook of Physiology. By W. D. Halliburton, M.D. F.R.S. Sixteenth Edition. London: John Murray, 1900.
La Peste et son Microbe. Pas Dr. Netter. Cyclopedia of Classified Dates. By C. E. Paris: G. Carré et C. Naud, 1900. Little, New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls Co. 1900. 22.
The Refraction of the Eye. By A. E. Davis, A.M., M.D. London and New York: Macmillan and Co. 1900. 12s. 6d.

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