

Statistics of operation performed for the removal of stone in the charitable hospitals of the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh. [Extracted from the report of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for the year 1886.]

LITHOTOMY.

	From 1862 to 1885.			1886.		
	Total number of operations.	Total deaths.	Percentage of deaths to total number of operations.	Total number of operations.	Total deaths.	Percentage.
Up to 5 years of age	3,622	208	5.74	226	9	3.98
6 to 10 "	4,084	166	4.06	224	7	3.12
11 to 20 "	2,852	184	6.45	119	7	5.88
21 to 30 "	1,724	161	9.33	50	5	10.00
31 to 40 "	1,670	155	9.28	73	12	16.43
Above 40 years	2,696	456	16.91	108	28	25.92
TOTAL	16,648	1,330	7.98	800	68	8.50

LITHOLAPAXY.

	From 1880 to 1885.			1886.		
	Total number of operations.	Total deaths.	Percentage of deaths to total number of operations.	Total number of operations.	Total deaths.	Percentage.
Up to 5 years of age	8	..	..	3	..	..
6 to 10 "	7	..	..	6	2	33.33
11 to 20 "	27	..	..	20	..	..
21 to 30 "	70	3	4.28	54	2	3.70
31 to 40 "	137	4	2.92	42	2	4.76
Above 40 years	276	32	11.59	94	7	7.44
TOTAL	525	39	7.42	219	13	5.93

THE HEALTH OF BOMBAY.—According to the Health Officer's Report for 1886-87, the health of the people of the City of Bombay for that year was unusually good, the death-rate being only 23.2 per 1,000, or about the lowest ever registered in Bombay. This was in a great measure due to the almost entire absence of cholera, from which there were only 19 deaths in the year. The birth-rate was as usual among Europeans as well as natives below the death-rate, but it seems that the returns of births are not altogether to be relied on. The Health Department is said to have worked very satisfactorily during the year, and the net outlay for that department was Rs. 4,74,562.

VITAL STATISTICS OF ASSAM.—The vital statistics of Assam for the year 1886, if they can be relied upon, which seems rather doubtful, show that the birth-rate was 27.55 per 1,000, and the death-rate 27.77 per 1,000. In every district of the Assam valley and also in Kachar, the death-rate was higher than in the previous year, while in Sylhet and the selected areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the opposite was the case. Throughout the whole of Assam, with the exception of Lakhimpur and Darrang, the birth-rate has decreased. The returns from the tea gardens are considered to be more reliable, and they give a death-rate of 38.25 per 1,000 and a birth-rate of 28.95. The only district in which the birth-rate exceeded the death-rate was in Kachar.

Correspondence.

A VEXED QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—What can be done to obtain one's just dues with reference to the annual fee supposed to be paid to Civil Surgeons by Government servants. In these days every ana is of importance, and yet the small amount sanctioned

by usage to be paid us is steadily decreasing. It no doubt is, to the payer, a vexed question; but that is no reason why the unfortunate payee is to lose.

The week's pay for a year's attendance is generally fair to both parties; but I find, that if little or no attendance is required for the past year, the fee is difficult to obtain, if not ignored altogether.

It is not a pleasant task to sue and really is impossible. If a patient refuses to pay, what remedy is there? We cannot very well bring an action, and I doubt if it would stand.

It is a tax no doubt, but a necessary one; unless Government will step forward, and by raising our pay in proportion, exempt all Government servants' families from payment, and thus render the latter under the same rule as the former, free medical attendance.

One debtor will quietly tell you that he did not call you in and did not require your services, quite ignoring the opposite fact that if he had required your services, he would in nine cases out of ten not have thought it necessary to pay you a pice more than the usual fee; although you may have paid numerous daily and sometimes nightly visits for weeks.

Either do this, or send a General Order round that Civil Surgeons are authorized to either charge a fee for each visit or the annual amount is to be stopped at the treasury every year by the treasury officer from each Government official's pay, and made over to the Civil Surgeon. In fact, treat it as a tax or rate that has to be paid and must be paid.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
AN OLD BIRD.

7th Nov., 1887.

THE TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY.

By the administration of minute doses of Ipecacuanha.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Having had personal and practical experience of this method of treatment in cases of acute dysentery, I think it is worthy of further trial in those cases in which large doses of this drug cannot be borne, and its administration in this form only causes vomiting or nausea, depression and ill-effects.

In such cases I usually prescribe a quarter of a grain of Ipecac. in a pill, to be taken every hour, and continued for two or three days.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX. FAULKNER,
I. M. S.

PESHIN;
August, 1887. }

THE TREATMENT OF PARAPLEGIA.

TO THE EDITOR, "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—In one of the issues of the *Indian Medical Gazette*, I read a communication from a Bengali Doctor, stating the cure wrought by applying spirit over the spine and setting fire to it in cases of Paraplegia. At the time I had a patient named Abdool Rahiman, aged 6, of Talangire, suffering from paraplegia. After unsuccessfully treating him with galvanism, iron, nux vomica, &c., I adopted the Doctor's plan, I smeared a thin layer of spirit over the whole spine, and set fire. The whole part became, for a time, a mass of superficial ulcers. The boy became weaker and worse. But after a time reaction set in. The treatment after a few days proved completely successful. The boy walks well.

Yours faithfully,
B. COLACO,
Apothecary.