

WANTED—SKULLS.

To the Editor of the "Indian Medical Gazette."

DEAR SIR,—With the view of extending our knowledge of the Comparative Anatomy of Man, and of defining the characteristics peculiar to different varieties of the human race, it is exceedingly desirable that large additions should be made to the collection of skeletons, especially of crania, now in the Hunterian and other British Museums.

In order to determine the characters of a race, it is necessary that comparison should be made of at least twenty skulls. It is further desirable to have as many of the bones of the skeleton as possible, as comparison of pelvic and long bones give important results in determining race peculiarities.

The Hunterian Museum, now under the direction of Professor Flower, F. R. S., is especially interested in this inquiry, which is being vigorously pursued by Mr. Flower, than whom no one is more competent to do it justice.

His recent lectures at the College of Surgeons have especially directed my attention to the absence of material for the satisfactory study of Comparative Anthropology, and especially in regard to the numerous races inhabiting the peninsula of India and the adjacent hill territories.

I would therefore beg of you to use every effort in your power to procure *authenticated* crania, complete skeletons when possible, of any of the people of India or the neighbouring territories. It is essential that full details of race, sex, age, locality, &c., should be given. Examples of such races as have retained, in a greater or less degree, their primitive purity will be more interesting than those whose original characters have been lost by intermixture with others.

The crania or skeletons, complete or in part, should be addressed to Professor Flower, F. R. S., at the Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

No more valuable contribution to the most important of all branches of Natural History could be made, none in which you can more effectively further the object of the Museum, in which all medical men take so great an interest.

Believe me,
Yours very faithfully,
JOSEPH FAYRE.

London, April 1879.

SALICYLIC ACID IN NEURALGIA.

To the Editor of the "Indian Medical Gazette."

SIR,—Having suffered much from neuralgia of the right trifacial nerves, and tried various remedies without any permanent relief, I thought I would see if the Salicylates would be of any use, and obtained some Salicylic acid and Salicin from Treacher & Co.; but having read Dr. Laurie's caution, that some persons are easily affected by the drug, I commenced with the small dose of ten grains, every 2 hours, mixed with seven grains of the Carbonate of soda, and give you a brief record of my experiences.

During the taking of the first dram, there certainly was an abatement of the pain, and of the burning sensation I almost always have on the side of my face and head, and my pulse fell about five beats per minute, that is, from 72 to 68, and sometimes 65.

During the taking of the second dram I began to experience that peculiar buzzing in the head that is produced by large doses of quinine, and a feeling of depression and coldness at the precordia, but no farther abatement of the pain; my pulse however fell to 60.

I persisted and took a third dram, which produced decided coldness in my chest, with a feeling of great weakness; my feet became cold, and I was quite listless, and nearly deaf, with a throbbing pain in my head and ears, which was as bad as the neuralgia. My pulse now ranged from 58 to 60; but at this time, when I was fully under the effects of the drug, a severe paroxysm of the neuralgia came on, thus showing it had no power to combat this disease. I therefore gave it up, but I was 3 days before I could again hear properly. I was not able to take my temperature by thermometer, but the reduction was undoubtedly great.

I also tried the Salicin in ten grain doses every two hours, but this drug did not seem to have any effect whatever on me.

your truly,
P. CULLEN, M. D.

Khundwa, 2nd May, 1879.

FEVER IN THE PUNJAB.

By SURGEON-MAJOR H. W. BELLEW, C. S. I.

(Continued from page 149.)

75. In connection with this subject, and with the view to ascertain what influence is exercised upon the general health by canal-irrigation, I have had the two subjoined comparative statements prepared from the records in my office. The tables show in juxtaposition the birth and death statistics for the eight years from 1870 to 1877 in ten principal towns situated on, or irrigated from canals, and in ten others not so circumstanced. The figures in the "all causes" column represent the total registered mortality, and the figures in the "fevers" column only that portion registered under fevers. Thus in Delhi in 1870 the total registered mortality was 4,445; of this total 2,257 deaths were registered under fevers and the remaining 2,188 under different other causes, the two together constituting all causes.

76. An inspection of the tables will show at a glance that the towns situated on or near canals have a uniformly higher "fever" death-rate, and in the aggregate a higher "all causes" death-rate also than the towns situated away from canals; and further, that on the whole they have a somewhat lower birth-rate than the towns in the latter category, although the difference in this respect is not so conspicuous as that between the death-rates of the two opposite classes. Thus the mean death-rate from "all causes" in canal towns is 40 per mille of population against 37 in the non-canal towns, and even this figure would be reduced to 34 per mille after making due allowance for the exceptional mortality in Ferozepore and Jullundur in consequence of the opening of canals in the former, and of the occurrence of floods in 1875 and the latter in 1876. But in the case of "fevers" alone, the mean death-rate of the canal towns is 21 against 16 of the others, or against only 13 per mille after deducting the exceptional mortality of Ferozepore and Jullundur.

These differences in the mean birth and death-rates in the two opposite classes of towns are not to be rejected as unreliable on the score of defective registration, because, taken on the whole, registration is very carefully attended to in all these municipal towns, and has been so more or less steadily from the first. Besides whatever shortcomings there may have been in the matter of registration, they would not be confined to one set alone, but would naturally be common to both classes, and the best proof of this is found in the very marked changes observed in the statistics of both classes of towns where they are the result of special causes. The statistics are, I consider, reliable, and the tables themselves instructive, and certainly worth a careful study.