

tooth, and simple directions to this effect given to the patient, together with a couple of drachms of this syrup, will last a very long time.

Its action would seem to be both a counter-irritant or mild escharotic and a powerful local sedative to the tooth pulp.

I venture to bring this treatment of toothache into more particular notice, because so many patients have been so pleased that they have had at hand such a simple remedy, invariably effectual in relieving their pain, and also to remind other surgeons not to forget it when consulted by a patient in a district where there is no dentist to scrape a tooth cavity and extract the nerve or fill the tooth.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. T. RECKETT,
Surgeon, M.S.

BELLARY, }
August 14th 1886. }

KALA-AZAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—With reference to Dr. Mullane's explanation of the epithet Kala-azar, or Kal-zor (black fever) as it is termed here. I beg to state that on questioning some of the native Vydians and others here, I was told that the above disease mentioned in the September number of the *Indian Medical Gazette*, is so called on account of the tongue of the patient showing a dark patch (fur?) in the middle of the upper surface. The disease prevailed as an epidemic on this coast some years back. But at the present day rarely to be seen, probably on account of improved sanitation.

Yours obedient servant,
B. COLACO,
Civil Apothecary.

KASARAGOD, SOUTH CANARA; }
15th November 1886. }

NATIVE TREATMENT OF RETAINED PLACENTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—The following is the generally adopted way of expelling the placenta among natives of this coast:—

Immediately after the child is born, the attendant midwife makes the woman sit down. She then thrusts a handful of the hair of the head of the lying-in-woman into her mouth, and thus excites nausea. Vomiting sets in; the contracting abdominal muscles press on the languid uterus, and in most cases the after-birth is at once wholly expelled. The bugbear of a retained placenta [which will, according to a native midwife's opinion, produce nanji (septicemia)] is so great that she will not wait a minute for nature to have its course.

Yours obedient servant,
B. COLACO,
Civil Apothecary.

KASARAGOD, SOUTH CANARA; }
15th November 1886. }

DR. HARLEY ON HEPATIC ABSCESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—What are we to understand from Dr. G. Harley's statement in his work on the liver where he says "the natives of hot climates are not one whit more liable to be affected with abscess of the liver than any man residing in Great Britain?" I suppose we are to understand that as abscess of the liver is one of the rarest affections to which the Briton at home is subject, such is also the case with the Indian at home, and that also forsooth because the habits of the latter differ so much from those of the former when residing in India, where according to our author he is characterised by laziness, drunkenness, and gluttony. How are we to account for Dr. Harley's limited (and erroneous as they are limited) views of everything connected with India? Is it possible that he has presumed to discuss a disease so frightfully common in India, and of which he can have, compared with Indian surgeons, only the most limited experience, without consulting any

of the authorities on the subject? Does he never open the *Indian Medical Gazette*, from almost every issue of which he would be sure to learn something regarding hepatic abscess? In the early part of last year he might have read a paper by an Indian Army Surgeon, in which no less than seven cases of hepatic abscess were discussed before the South Indian Branch of the British Medical Association, all of which occurred in Hindu patients within a period of eight months. If Dr. Harley reads this paper he will be under the necessity of revising (1) his views of the habits of the natives of hot climates, (2) his views on frequency of hepatic abscess amongst the same individuals, and, (3) if I mistake not, his views as to the treatment of hepatic abscess to a successful issue. I would gladly hope also that the lesson thus learned would deter him in the future from trusting simply to inspiration when treating a subject outside the range of his limited observation. No one can deny that Dr. Harley has written copiously on hepatic abscess, but I think the majority of those acquainted with the subject can accord his work no higher praise.

I am, &c.,
J. S.

Appointments, Leave, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.

WRIGHT, Surgeon-Major R. T., M.D., Superintendent, Central Jail, Nagpur, placed at the disposal of the Government of India, in the Home Department, for employment under the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oude.

CULLEN, Surgeon-Major P., M.D., is re-posted to the Nimar District as Civil Surgeon, on his return from furlough.

EVERS, Surgeon-Major B., M.D., Civil Surgeon of Nimar, on being relieved by Surgeon-Major Cullen, is transferred to Chanda.

SIMPSON, Surgeon-Major S.J., M.S., civil medical charge of Chunar, in addition.

TYRRELL, Surgeon C.R., M. S., civil medical charge of Muttra, in addition.

JAMESON, Surgeon-Major R., to be a Deputy Sanitary Commissioner.

BROWNE, Surgeon-Major William Richard, M. D., is re-appointed to be Medical Officer, Ootacamund, for two years.

DYNOTT, Surgeon D. F., M. B., to officiate as Inspector of Vaccination and Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, sub. pro tem, *vice* Surgeon-Major Laing, but to continue to act as Secretary to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.

WESTON, Assistant Apothecary J. T., Presidency General Hospital, is appointed to act as Apothecary, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. R. M. Blaker.

BOMFORD, Surgeon-Major G., is appointed to be substantive pro tempore Second Resident Surgeon, Presidency General Hospital, during the absence, on deputation, of Surgeon J. Clarks.

CROFTS, Surgeon A. M., has been appointed Medical Officer to His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior.

PREVOR, Surgeon G. H., to the medical charge of the 10th Bengal Lancers.

DENNYS, Surgeon G. W. P., to the officiating medical charge, 1st Punjab Infantry.

RUSSELL, Surgeon-Major E. G., M.B., to the officiating medical charge of the 13th Bengal Lancers, *vice* Surgeon W. Courry, proceeded to Upper Burma.

ALCOCK, Surgeon A. W., to the officiating medical charge of the 1st Sikh Infantry, *vice* Surgeon-Major A. P. Holmes, M. D.

TYLER, Dr. J. W., M.D., C. I. E., on return from leave, to the charge of the Agra Central Prison.

SYKES, Surgeon J., Officiating Superintendent, Central Prison, Agra, on being relieved by Dr. J. W. Tyler, to the civil medical charge of Mirzapur.

COBB, Surgeon R., Civil Surgeon, Hazaribagh, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Hughli, during the absence on furlough of Surgeon-Major W. H. Gregg.

BRATSON, Surgeon W., to act as Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpore.

BROWN, Honorary Surgeon T. W., has been appointed to act as officer in medical charge, Kotri, in addition to his own duties.

LAING, Surgeon-Major J. A., to officiate as Sanitary Commissioner, Madras.

GHOSE, Assistant-Surgeon Nund Lall, is appointed to have temporary medical charge of the civil station of Tipperah.

DAY, Assistant-Surgeon Benode Beharee, temporarily attached to the subdivision and dispensary at Jungpore, in the Moorshedabad district, is confirmed in that appointment.