DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

A General Index for Medical Journals.

To the Editor:—A physician more remarkable for commercial instincts than for scientific attainment, once spoke contemptuously of the library of the late Prof. Jewell, saying that it contained "nothing but a lot of old medical journals." We think he but voiced a sentiment, all too common in the profession, but one we are sure that will meet with little sympathy from the original workers and writers in medicine. To these the files of the standard journals are about the most valuable books to be found in a medical library. In medical societies it is generally possible to pick out the man who subsists largely upon textbook pabulum, and it will be generally observed that he is not the most interesting contributor to the proceedings. The industrious student knows that he has not exhausted a subject until he has gone through the files of the great journals.

We hold it to be axiomatic that any journal that is worth a subscription is worth binding, and no journal that does not have a complete index to each volume is worth binding,—therefore it is not worth taking.

The labor of consulting journals, even when properly bound, is very considerable. The examination of the files of THE JOURNAL necessitates the handling of fourteen volumes and the running of as many indexes. For any one to properly appreciate this work, they should examine the indexes of the last thirty or forty volumes of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. While this labor is somewhat lessened by index *résumés* they are but clumsy excuses for a general index—at least once in five years every medical journal of any importance should issue a general index. The only medical periodical of any importance that does this is *Schmidt's Jahrbücher*, and every earnest worker will agree with us when we say that this feature alone gives an unequaled value to that publication.

In these days of labor saving contrivances it is not too much to ask our publishers to print a general index;—we do not ask that they be given to us, but humbly petition for the privilege of buying them. HAROLD N. MOYER, M.D.

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A Correction.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL of the 18th inst., in the report of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association Proceedings, your reporter stated that I "reported six cases of gunshot injury of the abdominal cavity in which the viscera were injured, with five recoveries and one death." My paper was *confined* to the report of cases of

penetrating *stab* wounds of the abdomen, and hence *gunshot* wounds were not considered. By correcting the mistake in your next issue you will oblige Very truly yours,

H. O. DALTON, M.D.

NECROLOGY.

Robert Stevenson, M.D.

Dr. Robert Stevenson, of Adrian, Mich., died of apoplexy in the city of Vienna, Austria, August 9, 1890. The *Adrian Press*, in an eloquent tribute to his memory says: "The sad news of Dr. Stevenson's death occasioned a general feeling of sorrow, for no man was more widely known among our citizens, and to the people of the county than he, and surely none were more universally esteemed and respected. His skill in his profession, and his genial social nature, gave him a wide popularity, and always made him a welcome visitor in the sick room. He carried perpetual sunshine in his countenance, and under all circumstances, and upon all occasions, was a perfect type of the old-school gentleman, affable, courteous, genial and cheery, yet always maintaining a dignified bearing that proclaimed him the true gentleman. He was a man of broad culture, sympathetic nature, pure character and unquestioned integrity. For many years he had been an honored member of the Presbyterian church. He was also a member of Adrian lodge F. & A. M., of Adrian Commandery.

"He was born in Ireland in August, 1823, and obtained his medical education at the University of Glasgow. His first service was as surgeon on a whaling ship. After a six months' cruise he sought his fortunes in America. He settled in the city of Adrian, where he has since resided and built up a practice that heralds him as one of the leading physicians of the State. Dr. Stevenson became a member of the American Medical Association in 1876, and has usually attended its annual meetings; he was a member of the Michigan Medical Society, and also the Southern Michigan Medical Association. Dr. Stevenson was a delegate from the American Medical Association to the British Medical Association, and to the Tenth International Medical Congress, which was held at Berlin. He was married in 1851, and of eight children born to him, four are now living."

DR. CHARLES STEEL THOMSON, born in Toland, Conn., April 6, 1801, and a son of Dr. Gurdon Thomson, a medical celebrity of a hundred years ago or more, died recently in New Haven, Conn. He was a graduate of the Yale Medical College, class of 1822, and since 1883 was the oldest living graduate of that institution.