

## Correspondence

## Contract-Practice

*To the Editor:*—I wish to say a public word in commendation of the report of the committee signed by Dr. Edward E. Haley on "The Evils of the Contract-System," and published in THE JOURNAL, Aug. 19, 1911, page 674. If any physician has laid his journal aside without reading that report he should look it up and read it. It is the only paper I have read which goes to the heart of the system. Contract-practice, particularly railroad contract-practice, is the most far-reaching evil at work in lowering the dignity and prestige of medical men and their work.

FRANCIS W. GALLAGHER, El Paso, Tex.

## Improper Clothing Deforming the Nipples of Young Girls

*To the Editor:*—My attention was called some years ago to the coincidence of the adoption of a new style of undershirt by women and an increasing number of cases of so-called retracted nipples.

At first, I was somewhat incredulous in the matter and was disinclined to attribute this very serious deformity to what seemed, at first blush, so small a matter as the wearing of undershirts or vests, by growing girls, in which no special provision is made to prevent pressure on their nipples. I had always supposed that retracted, or rather submerged, nipples were due to tight-fitting corsets. Probably both factors are active in causing this deformity.

I find that a belief is cherished among our profession that so-called retracted nipples may be due to faulty or arrested development, like hare-lip or spina bifida. This, I think, is quite erroneous. So far as I have been able to observe the nipples of little girls with undeveloped breasts, they always protrude beyond the surface of the breast. It seems to be only in the rounded breast of considerable development that the nipple is imbedded in the surrounding tissue, so that the front of the breast is often as smooth as a billiard ball. It seems evident that the pressure of the clothing has held the nipple back while the breast has pushed forward and finally surrounded this sensitive little organ.

This question is of such extreme importance that a most careful and painstaking investigation of its every phase should be carried out. Public institutions like orphan asylums and reform schools for girls would seem to afford a fair field for this study. One would suppose that the wearing of undershirts with pockets to receive the breasts is so simple a matter that it could easily be carried out; yet children are heedless and no one seems to take pains to watch them, or to teach them the need of care of these most important structures.

In talking to a mother the other day on this subject, I was surprised to hear her say that she did not know whether her daughter's nipples were retracted or not. She asked her daughter, a young lady of fifteen or sixteen, to show her breasts and in each of them the nipple was apparently firmly imbedded; at all events, its distal extremity was flush with the front of the breast.

The attitude of our profession should be a firm refusal to countenance the marriage of any nippleless woman. Inability to suckle her offspring ought, in law and conscience, to inhibit any woman from marrying. By insisting on this ultimatum and inciting the mothers of growing girls to be extremely watchful in the prevention of this deformity, we may be able to check its apparently rapid and general increase.

The present generation can scarcely hope to live to see reason and common sense prevail in ordaining the fashions of women's dress, but we ought to be able to prevent the mutilations and self-inflicted deformities of the human body, now, alas! so common.

RICHARD COLE NEWTON, Montclair, N. J.

## Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

## DIET FOR GASTRIC ULCER

*To the Editor:*—What is Lenhartz' diet for gastric ulcer? What percentage of cures does it show?

M. OYEN, M.D., Ellsworth, Wis.

ANSWER.—Lenhartz' diet was described in THE JOURNAL, June 12, 1909, p. 1943. The reported cases do not yet afford sufficient data for an accurate estimate of the percentage of cures.

## THE CORRECT PLURAL OF SPOONFUL

*To the Editor:*—Which is grammatically correct, "teaspoonful" or "teaspoonfuls"? C. F. H., Oklahoma.

ANSWER.—The correct plural of "spoonful" is "spoonfuls." "Three teaspoonfuls" would mean three full teaspoons, not three times the quantity held in a teaspoon.

## SPLINT FORMULA WANTED

*To the Editor:*—Can you furnish a satisfactory formula for a good cloth or felt splint, which can be made pliable by heat so that it can be molded to the limb, and which will afterward become hard? P. S. R.

## The Public Service

## Medical Department, U. S. Army

Changes during the week ended Sept. 2, 1911.

Mason, George L., dental surgeon, left temporary duty, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., en route to station, Fort Snelling, Minn.

Johnston, James F., lieutenant, left presidio of San Francisco en route to Whipple Barracks, Ariz., for temporary duty.

Schreiner, E. R., major, relieved from further duty with 1st Cavalry and on expiration of present leave will return to Boise Barracks, Idaho.

Johnson, Thomas H., lieutenant, will accompany Troop A, 1st Cavalry, from Sequoia and General Grant National Park to presidio of San Francisco. Lieutenant Johnson will then proceed to Fort Baker, Cal., for duty.

Ingalls, Raymond E., dental surgeon, on completion of temporary duty at Whipple Barracks, Ariz., will return to Fort Douglas, Utah.

Humphreys, H. G., captain, granted thirty days' leave of absence.

Mason, George L., dental surgeon, returned to Fort Snelling, Minn., from temporary duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Richardson, William H., captain, granted leave of absence for two months, with permission to apply for an extension of one month, to take effect about Nov. 1, 1911.

Brooks, William H., major, granted leave of absence for one month.

Birmingham, H. P., colonel, granted thirty days' leave of absence about Sept. 1, 1911.

Ireland, M. W., granted twenty-four days' leave of absence about Sept. 1, 1911.

Smith, William H., lieutenant, on arrival at San Francisco will proceed to Fort Sheridan, Ill., for duty.

Mount, James E., lieutenant, relieved from duty at Fort Sheridan, Ill., and ordered to Schofield Barracks, H. T., for duty.

Tuttle, Arnold D., lieutenant, on arrival at San Francisco will proceed to Army General Hospital, San Francisco, for duty.

Napier, Edward L., lieutenant, relieved from duty at Army General Hospital, San Francisco, and ordered to Fort McDowell, Cal., for duty.

Hutton, Paul C., major, when services are no longer required at San Antonio, Texas, is relieved from duty at Fort Snelling, Minn., and ordered to Fort Howard, Md., for duty.

Geddings, Edward F., major, relieved from duty at Fort Howard, Md., and ordered to Fort Snelling, Minn.

Ashford, B. K., major, relieved from duty with governor of Porto Rico and will report to the commanding officer, Porto Rico regiment of Infantry for duty.

Scott, Thomas E., M.R.C., ordered to active duty and assigned to station at Fort Moultrie, S. C.

A board of medical officers to consist of Col. Louis A. La Garde, lieutenant-colonel, Walter D. McCaw, Maj. Powell C. Fauntelroy, Maj. Carl R. Darnell, Maj. Frederick F. Russell, Maj. Charles R. Reynolds, Maj. Paul S. Halloran, Capt. William T. Davis, Capt. Charles F. Craig, Capt. William A. Wickline, Capt. William A. Duncan, Capt. Henry J. Nichols is appointed to meet at the Army Medical School, Washington, D. C., to determine the results of the preliminary examination of applicants for the final examination of candidates from admission to the Medical Corps.

Casper, Joseph, lieutenant, granted thirty days' sick leave of absence and directed to proceed to the Philippine Islands for duty on Oct. 5, 1911, instead of Sept. 5, 1911.

Hathaway, L. M., captain, leave of absence extended one month.

Eber, Albert H., M.R.C., granted two months' leave of absence, to take effect about Oct. 1, 1911.

Worthington, Joseph A., captain, granted one month and fifteen days' leave of absence, to take effect about Sept. 15, 1911.