

I have come to consider hæmorrhoids in most cases as synonymous with gross neglect to keep the bowels regular every day. It is simply astounding to see how ignorant women are of the importance of avoiding constipation. That is the first question I ask every woman who comes to my office, and I insist upon a truthful answer. Over and over again they have told me that their bowels were *regular*, but on being pressed closely they admitted that they were regular once a fortnight. Think of undertaking to reduce passive congestion of the uterus, while a fourteen day old fecal brick is blocking the venous circulation. In seven cases out of ten when we cure the constipation we shall have removed the pelvic pain which brings the woman to us.

## Correspondence.

### OUR LONDON LETTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DEAR EDITORS,—

Believing that a little of every day medical life in London might be of interest to your readers, I shall attempt to write you every month while I am here something of what is going on around me.

The Morrell-Mackenzie affair is, of course, a subject of the greatest interest at the present time. The general feeling among the profession is that it was to be regretted that Sir Morrell published his book; but a great many think that, in doing so, he acted in good faith and while smarting under the attacks of his German rivals. Now that the British Medical Association has apologized to Von Berghmann for having allowed the appearance of the Crown Prince's script in the columns of the *Journal*, and having censured the editor for having inserted it, it is to be hoped that the matter will drop. The editor of the *Journal*, by the way, calls the council of the Association to task for censuring him while he is really their re-

presentative, or one of themselves. There is no doubt that a great deal of the adverse feeling towards Sir Morrell was due to professional jealousy. Certain, it is, that he enjoys perhaps the largest income of any medical man in Great Britain; and it is equally certain that his practice has not only not fallen off but very largely increased since he has been censured by the authorities.

The other day, while some workmen were repairing the palace at Holyrood, they found, hidden in the wall of the room formerly occupied by Mary Queen of Scots, the body of an infant wrapped in embroidered clothes, on which the initial, "J," was still visible. History reports that it was in this very room that the infant was born who afterwards became James I, and who promptly disappeared. No inquest was held and the little remains were replaced in their hiding-place.

It appears that Dr. Murrell received a prize of twenty-five thousand francs from the French Academy of Medicine for having discovered the therapeutical value of nitroglycerine in the relief of angina pectoris. Somehow or other it has been going round the press that it was Dr. Richardson who was the happy discoverer.

A doctor in Liverpool has recently written to the press complaining that a prescription which he gave to a patient was being used by that patient to cure a great number of his friends. He told the man, who was a carpenter, that it was just as unfair to lend his prescription as it would be for the doctor to borrow the joiner's tools and lend them to his friends. He suggested that the proper way for the patient to do was to send these sick people to him. The moral he deduces is, that doctors should not give prescriptions to patients. If the doctor does not dispense, he should send the patient with the prescription, under cover, to a chemist, who should have instructions not to deliver a copy of it to the patient unless specially ordered to do so.