the year only. Binders should never be allowed to put on the back of a book any numbering which does not exist on the title page.

In books where there are two paginations care should be taken to state definitely to which the reference belongs. The *Comptes Rendus des Séances et Mémoires de la Société de Biologie* is an example; the *Comptes Rendus* being paged separately from the *Mémoires*. The following is a good illustration of this, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, January 25th, 1892, p. 104, it ought to be, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 1892, vol. i, EPITOME, p. 104.

It is an unwise plan to use an editor's name as part of a title, except in rare cases where it is useful for distinguishing between two nearly identical titles. As time goes on and editorial changes are made this kind of reference becomes troublesome. To this rule, as to all others, there are some few exceptions, the most notable, perhaps, being *Virchow's Archiv*. I saw a reference not long ago to *Macmillan's Journal of Anatomy*; in this case the name of the publisher has been added. The curious part of this is that Messrs. Macmillan gave up publishing the *Journal of Anatomy* ten years ago.

The question of abbreviation of titles is by no means an unimportant one. Hence we need some approach to uniformity; the full title of a journal is unnecessary, and greatly adds to the bulk of a book when there are many references. I do not think we could do better than adopt as a standard of abbreviation those used by Dr. Billings in the Catalogue of the Surgeon-General's Library. This book is available in every medical library; the system of abbreviation was well thought out, and has thoroughly stood the test of use. Proper abbreviation is not always as simple as it seems. "*Jnl. Anat. Physiol.*" looks very well, and at first sight seems to denote clearly what is meant. From this reference, however, it is quite impossible to say whether it is to an English, French, or German periodical.

In some foreign books care has to be taken in differentiating between the name of an author and the town where he lives. The "*Berliner Klinik*" has lately taken to add the town to the author's name, and print them like a compound name. Thus a paper is said to be by Dr. Peyer-Zürich; this only appears on the wrapper; inside the author is described as Dr. Peyer. The above case is perhaps tolerably plain, but there are others where one may easily fall into the trap.

Much might be written as to the incorrect quotation of references, but this is a matter on which it is impossible to lay down rules; nearly all writers grumble at the incorrectness of their brother authors, but very few seem to take much pains to be more correct themselves.

THE QUEEN OF PORTUGAL'S DISPENSARY AT LISBON.

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HER MAJESTY DONA AMELIA, Queen of Portugal, stands foremost amongst the reigning sovereigns of Europe as a promoter of philanthropy and as a practical worker in the field of medicine. The interest taken by her in the treatment of diphtheria by the antitoxin method has already been noticed in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*. Through the kindness of Dr. Mello Breyner, Physician to Her Majesty, it was my recent privilege to visit the charming little dispensary at Lisbon, known by the name of "Dispensario de Sua Majestade a Rainha," which privilege was subsequently graciously extended by the Queen herself.

This building, like the "Gibert" Dispensary at Havre—described in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of January 12th—is devoted to the treatment of diseases of children. The dispensary is personally managed by the Queen, who is accustomed to visit it regularly and to assist in the dressing and treatment of surgical cases. On the occasion of my visit Her Majesty arrived in the early morning, attended by a maid of honour, and prepared to attend to the wants of the many starving sick Portuguese children assembled. Her gentle solicitude and ready sympathy to both children and mothers at once won the heart.

It is scarcely possible to exaggerate the wretched circumstances of the 2,000 children who have attended the dispensary since its inauguration on Christmas Day, 1893. The object of the institution—the only one of the kind in Portugal—is not only to satisfy the needs of children under 12 years of age in a medical sense, but to provide them with food, warm clothing, and baths.

The building, which has a very modest exterior, is at Alcantara, the chief centre of the manufactures of Lisbon, and is close to the Palace of Necessidades. It stands in a small garden, which serves as a playground for children in front and as a kitchen garden behind, while its windows command a magnificent view of the river Tagus. The entrance door opens from the garden into a waiting room, which is paved with tiles and provided with benches capable of seating about 50 persons. This communicates with the kitchen, which again opens into a light and airy dining room to accommodate 100 children, to whom free dinners of soup, meat, rice, etc., are given twice a day. Sterilised milk is also supplied. A small and richly-painted figure of the Virgin above the door of this room, as well as a finely-carved crucifix, serve as appropriate and natural ornaments for such an institution in this country.

The patients are received in a small, well-appointed consulting room on the first floor. A waiting room, provided with a balcony and with separate doors for entrance and exit, opens into the consulting room on one side and on the other into a well-lighted and ventilated casualty room, which is one of the largest rooms in the building. It is floored with concrete and the most perfect cleanliness is enforced. Two small operating tables of metal are fixed at either side, and facing one of them is a complete apparatus both for the sterilisation of surgical instruments and for the distillation and sterilisation of water. A tripod for the application of plaster-of-paris jackets to the spine, a screen, and the necessaries for antiseptic and simple dressings, douches, etc., complete the furnishings of the room. Surgical operations which do not require hospital treatment are performed here as well as dressings.

Adjoining is a small but well-equipped apothecary's department. The remaining apartments consist of a room fitted with baths and supplied with gymnastic apparatus, a small office, a pantry, and wardrobe. The sanitary arrangements, water supply, and ventilation are very good, and a carriage, provided by the Queen, is at hand to take such patients as require careful conveyance to their homes.

The honorary professional staff—Dr. Carvalho, who is the Medical Officer of Health for Lisbon, and Dr. Mello Breyner, a Court Physician—visit the dispensary on alternate days of the week.

Scrofula, chronic tuberculous disease of bone and joints, and ophthalmia form the bulk of the diseases treated. During the last year 500 successful vaccinations had been performed.

The nursing staff is under a trained sister of charity, who is assisted by eight others as well as by the ladies who bear the Queen company on her daily visits. It is little wonder that this small institution with its efficient staff of medical men and trained nurses, headed by a gracious and kindly Queen, has proved an unmistakable success, and the spirit of love and goodwill displayed in its management is by no means its least pleasant feature.

MEDICAL MEN IN POLITICAL LIFE.—According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association* there is only one instance in the history of the United States of a political office of cabinet rank having been held by a member of the medical profession. Dr. Oliver Wolcott, of Connecticut, was appointed Secretary to the Treasury in succession to Mr. Alexander Hamilton, on February 3rd, 1795. The President at the time was General Washington. Dr. Wolcott retained his office under President Jefferson, and he continued to do so until May, 1800. Dr. Wolcott had served with great distinction in the War of the Revolution, and had risen to the rank of Brigadier-General.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Samuel Alexander has, on the occasion of leaving Bulwell to take up practice in London, been presented by his friends with a gold watch and chain and purse as a mark of their esteem. Mrs. Alexander was presented with a silver teapot.