

Bowel consciousness

Bowel consciousness does not necessarily imply a knowledge of the anatomical position of the bowels, as is illustrated by the experiences of a schoolteacher who asked one boy a question,

‘Where is the Alimentary Canal?’

‘At Penrith, Miss’ replied the boy.

The teacher then proceeded to explain the position of the various organs of the body and the next day during a recapitulation lesson asked another boy the question, ‘Where are your bowels?’

‘Please, Miss, I do not know,’ was the boys answer.

‘But I told you yesterday,’

‘Yes, Miss but they have moved twice since then.’

Excerpt from ‘Sickness without Sorrow’ by a GP printed in 1951