

left maxillary antra, both ethmoids, both frontal sinuses, and one sphenoidal sinus. There was also a discharging opening at the inner angle of the right orbit which communicated with the frontal sinus. The teeth were removed, the antra opened, and the ethmoids curetted. Each frontal sinus was ionized twice, and an autogenous vaccine given. The sphenoidal sinus was ionized and suppuration in it ceased at once. The opening into the orbit closed without any further treatment, and in a short time all discharge from the nose ceased and did not recur.

HARE-LIP AND CLEFT PALATE: A WAR INFLUENCE.

BY

J. L. AYMARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
PORT ELIZABETH.

(Abridged.)

I HAVE no intention in this short article of going fully into the question of the treatment of hare-lip. I would, however, remark that war experience impressed upon me the fact that no tissues need be sacrificed. For instance, I find that the mucous border need not always be completely detached, but can almost invariably be incorporated into a useful backing support, helping to give that prominence to the upper lip which is essential to success.

One refinement suggested by extensive work with cartilage relates to the usually lost philtrum in hare-lip. I have been able to restore this prominent feature, with excellent result, by the insertion of small strips of septal cartilage. Together with many other surgeons, I make a practice of closing the hare-lip first, the idea that such practice interferes in any way with the palate operation being quite obsolete.

The worst enemies of the plastic surgeon are sepsis, insufficient blood supply, and tension. All these are constant companions of the cleft palate operation. The wonder is not that cleft palates are so often operative failures but that they ever succeed. Careful examination prior to operation in such cases often reveals not only the presence of adenoid masses but very frequently a condition of rhinitis sicca with accompanying pus.

Let us reflect what happens when we perform the more common Langenbeck operation; let us assume that the parts are healthy though congenitally defective prior to operation, what condition do we immediately create? We raise two flaps off the bone, thereby at once creating four raw surfaces. The nasal surfaces of both the flaps are left bare, as also the bony areas. All these surfaces invite infection, with the result that the wound breaks down. Lane's operation gets over the difficulty by opposing raw surfaces, and for this reason the plastic principles are correct. The measure of success of the palate operation must, however, be judged by its ultimate functional utility, to obtain which the sacrifice and displacement of tissues must be reduced to a minimum. When once surgeons realize that raw surfaces must be reasonably protected, and also recognize the above causes of failure, success will invariably follow.

Early in 1917, at Aldershot, I made several attempts to support tissues with mass paraffin, but failed. Had I skin-grafted the under surface of my flaps these failures would probably have been successes, and much valuable tissue would have been saved.

The grafting of cavities has long been a recognized practice; but it was left to Esser, in 1917, to demonstrate how a cavity could be made and filled with graft-covered dental stent, which was left until the cavity was lined and fit to be opened out to make the extended surface which was the object of the procedure.

My present method of dealing with the cleft palate is based upon Esser's principle. In my first case I worked upon the theory that a graft-covered support of wax secured through the nostrils would not only support the palate but cover the posterior raw surface. I am satisfied that, although I failed to secure the plug in position for more than thirty-six hours, such an operation is feasible and practicable were there no easier method. For three weeks the palate looked perfect, but suddenly broke down. The failure, I think, was due to the inclusion of a portion of the graft in the central incision, producing a weak union. In my second case I worked upon the idea

of partially embedding two masses of graft-covered wax in the usual relaxation cuts, and securing them with ligatures. This procedure was a total failure, and the whole broke down at the end of twenty-four hours.

It then occurred to me that Esser's method could be applied, provided a substitute were found for the dental stent. A suitable case presented itself four months ago in a boy of 12 years, with a history of previous operative failure. With the assistance of Drs. Mathew and Gilbert of Port Elizabeth, I performed the operation.

I made small incisions in the usual position internal to the last tooth and carefully freed the hard and soft palate with blunt forceps. I thus formed a pocket on each side, and plugged with gauze. I had previously prepared a wax mass, consisting of paraffin 1 oz., beeswax 2 drachms, iodoform 1 grain, bismuth carbonate 2 grains. I cut two almond-shaped plugs from this mass. I next cut two large Thiersch grafts from the inside of each thigh, approximately 2 in. by 1 in. Each graft was then spread over its wax cone and held in position with medium-sized Kocher forceps. Dr. Gilbert held the edges of the pocket open, and having removed the gauze I dropped the graft-covered wax into the cavity, securing each in turn with one suture. This was the first stage of the operation. The insertion of the wax had practically closed the cleft and made the parts immovable.

The next step as originally intended was to wait ten days, then incise along the cleft border, remove the wax and suture the raw edges. This procedure was adopted upon the fourteenth day. The patient made an uneventful recovery, and the speech was very greatly improved.

The points of interest are many. It occurred to us after reflection that the parts being approximated by the wax, probably a slight incision along the edge and a few sutures would have caused union in the first place. The wax could have been removed later through the original incision. No inconvenience was caused by the mass of paraffin in the pharynx, and the immobility of the palate was marked, and, of course, a most valuable adjunct to success.

Full feeding was permissible from the first, and no attempt was made by Nature to expel the graft-covered foreign body. War experience taught me that a wax body not covered by graft was sooner or later expelled. Here plastic surgeons will appreciate my remarks; does not this open up a whole field of valuable possibilities?

I may not use paraffin plugs in future; I may use plugs of iodoform gauze covered in wax, but the principle of the operation I shall repeat in every other detail upon the first opportunity, with the exception that I shall probably leave the plugs in three weeks instead of ten days.

To sum up: this operation provided protection for all raw surfaces and consequent risk of sepsis, absolute fixation which no other means have so far been found to combat, and the use of free feeding from the first; lastly, the natural position of the tissues is disturbed as little as possible, and the possibility of a useful palate can be hopefully looked forward to.

This operation was performed upon a boy of 12 years, as mentioned above, but I would not hesitate to do the same upon a child of 2 years of age. There appears to be little or nothing to be gained by operating at an earlier age, and much to be lost. A functioning palate, after all, is the only result worth aiming at.

Memoranda: MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

A CASE OF DELAYED CHLOROFORM POISONING.

An operation was performed on a patient, a girl aged 13 years, suffering from acute appendicitis of forty-eight hours' duration, and a gangrenous appendix, with about a drachm of foul pus, wrapped round with omentum, was removed *en masse*. Open ether was the anaesthetic administered at first, but as the child appeared very "chesty" chloroform was resorted to later. Very little of the latter anaesthetic was used, and the duration of the operation was just under half an hour.

The patient had completely recovered from the anaesthetic in six hours' time, and she remained comfortable

until early on the Wednesday morning (the operation took place on a Monday) when vomiting recommenced. All day she was very restless, and on Thursday she passed into a stage of active delirium, continually crying out and trying to get out of bed. By Thursday night she became comatose, and finally died at 1.30 on Friday morning.

The urine was examined on the Wednesday and found to contain sugar. Acetone was noticed in the breath on Thursday, but owing to the child being incontinent it was not possible to get a sample of urine to test for its presence.

On post-mortem examination the kidney and liver presented marked fatty changes. The following report was received from the Clinical Research Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital:

Fresh section as well as permanent section of the liver and kidney show widespread fatty degeneration. Especially the distribution of this fatty degeneration in the intermediate zones of the liver lobules is characteristic of late chloroform poisoning.

Royal Salop Infirmary.

ALFRED MERRIN, F.R.C.S.I.

NERVE CELL DEGENERATION.

By means of over-staining sections of the central nervous system with aniline blue-black and then partially decolorizing them I have succeeded in demonstrating a series of changes in degenerating nerve cells which differ somewhat from those shown by Nissl's method. In the first place the cell body stains a pale reddish-brown, and the granules appear to be near the surface, are perfectly globular, and are all of the same size. Further, they are much smaller than Nissl's granules and stain a dark brown, showing up very clearly. The nucleus consists of a beaded network or closely packed mass of darker brown granules, rather larger than those of the cell body, and in the midst of them lies a perfectly spherical nucleolus, black in colour and very sharply defined.

The changes in the degenerating cell appear to consist of:

1. Withdrawal of cell granules from the zone of origin of the cell processes, together with the appearance of one or more colourless refractile globules in the nucleolus, which subsequently become extruded.

2. The appearance of extranuclear and extranucleolar globules staining black and the disappearance of granules from the cell body. At this stage the nucleolus may split into two or three smaller globules of equal size.

3. Vacuolation may occur before or after the disappearance of the granules from the cell body, but seems quickly to be followed by disintegration of the nerve cell. By the time that vacuolation has begun the nucleus becomes blurred and its granules are difficult to make out, while the nucleolus remains clearly visible.

4. The nucleolus persists as a sharply defined globule even when there is nothing left of the cell but a granular mass which is very nearly amorphous.

I propose to take an early opportunity of bringing my preparations to the notice of neurologists.

Epsom.

H. W. EDDISON.

Reviews.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRY.

In the opening chapter of his *Introduction to the Psychological Problems of Industry*¹ Mr. FRANK WATTS suggests that the use of mathematical methods by some psychologists and the distaste of others for public controversy help to account for the light esteem in which, as he thinks, psychologists are held. If psychologists are lightly esteemed—a proposition we should certainly not be prepared to endorse—these can hardly be the explanations. Most men in the street regard pure mathematicians and even philosophers with awe; to eschew the common interests of mankind has even been mistaken sometimes for evidence of mental superiority. A better reason than Mr. Watts gives is that the average English reader likes to know "where to have" his author. He likes a mathematician, let us say, to behave as such. The reader of the late Isaac Todhunter's *Algebra* may not be moved to raptures by the proof of the binomial theorem, he may even think it dull, but he would not have been better

pleased had the author attempted to brighten the subject by introducing disquisitions on things in general—say, on the historical importance of the binomial theorem in Western Europe. To apply these considerations to Mr. Watts's own book, we remark that the first one hundred pages are devoted fairly strictly to business; certain experimental methods are described, and the interpretation of the results indicated. In his desire to make things easy Mr. Watts has not perhaps sufficiently emphasized the dangers which await the beginner when he handles statistical methods, but his reader will at least obtain a quite clear idea of the way in which some experimental methods have enriched our knowledge of the human side of industry.

The remainder of the book treats of subjects which the professional psychologist is hardly, if at all, better qualified to treat than any other thoughtful and experienced man. This is not to say that what Mr. Watts has written is uninteresting; it is, on the contrary, a thoughtful study of existing social organization. But the point we wish to make is that "Ideals in Industry," "State Socialism," "Industrial Democracy"—to take a few of Mr. Watts's headings—are too remotely connected with, though, of course, they are not disconnected from, motion study and the measurement of fatigue for it to be advisable to include them in the same volume. Psychology, according to Mr. Watts, is a new science (he presumably means experimental psychology). Being a new science it must not claim a mandate over too extensive territories. This caution is needed because the average quality of "new" psychological work is not high. Success needs the co-existence of two faculties, the mental and physical deftness of an experimenter, and that quantitative aptitude which discerns the truth behind and can manipulate massed figures. A cynical professor of philosophy who remarked that students who had not sufficient brains to learn either philosophy or physiology took up experimental psychology was grossly exaggerating, but his sneer had a small basis of truth. Within the purview of medicine, opinions may and do differ as to the ultimate importance of Freud's own work; but there is no doubt at all that a sensible proportion of the growing psycho-analytical "literature" is mere trash. Similarly while the pioneers of "scientific management" and motion study, notably F. B. Gilbreth, were scientific investigators of a high class, some of their self-styled disciples in America are, as Hoxie has pointed out, charlatans.

To Professor Spearman more than to any other psychologist belongs the credit of perceiving that experimental psychology must be thoroughly permeated by the spirit of mathematical reasoning before it can take rank amongst the approved instruments of investigation. We should have welcomed a sketch of the methods of the mathematical psychologists in Mr. Watts's book, even at the cost of making it duller and causing the omission of some agreeable but loose reasoning from analogy.

OCULAR PATHOLOGY.

WE extend a very cordial welcome to Professor VICTOR MORAX's work on ocular pathology,² for it is some years since a really good book on this subject was published. The author is well known in this country, and those who were privileged to hear his Bowman Lecture in 1919, and to be present at Oxford this summer, when he opened a discussion on post-operative infection, will not readily forget his masterly addresses: his reputation is world-wide, and justly so. From a man like Morax, who has done so much original work on ocular pathology, we should expect a work which is likely to be a classic, and we may say at once that in the volume before us the author has realized all our hopes.

The subject in its modern sense comprises histology and bacteriology as well as pathology, and the book has been written from this standpoint. It forms the last part of the new edition of the *Manuel d'histologie pathologique* of Cornil and Ranvier, and was to have been published at the end of 1914, but the war delayed its appearance.

Morax handles his subject according to the method of clinical examination in general use—that is, from before backwards, from the lids to the orbit. In each chapter

¹ *An Introduction to the Psychological Problems of Industry*. By F. Watts, M.A. London: G. Allen and Unwin, Limited. 1921. (Demy 8vo, pp. 240. 12s. 6d. net.)

² *Pathologie Oculaire*. By V. Morax. Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 1921. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 446; 204 figures, 4 plates. 45 fr. net.)

which he spent in Australia, Dr. Woodhead had practised in the Blackpool district for some twenty years. He was an old member of the British Medical Association, and only retired from active practice quite recently. He is survived by his widow and five daughters.

DR. RUSSELL STEWART WINGFIELD of Philadelphia died on August 23rd as the result of burns received in a fire which destroyed the American Red Cross children's hospital at Salonika on August 14th. The fire broke out in the hospital dispensary. Dr. Wingfield, who acted with great courage, succeeded in saving all the patients and staff, with the exception of one Greek interpreter. Dr. Wingfield, who was 26 years old, was born in Richmond, Virginia, and was a graduate of the University of Richmond and Medical College of Virginia. He enlisted in the American Army Medical Corps immediately on the American declaration of war and served as a State inspector of draft boards. After the war he became resident physician at the Stetson Hospital in Philadelphia, a post he relinquished to come to Europe in February last to serve with the Red Cross. He was at once sent to Salonika to take charge of the children's hospital at the Kalamaria refugee camp.

A SYMPATHETIC obituary notice of Sir Felix Semon by Sir StClair Thomson appears in the *Revue de laryngologie* of July 31st.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. ROLL OF WAR SERVICE.

MANY others besides those who have themselves been members of the Officers' Training Corps of the University of London will welcome the *Roll of War Service, 1914-1919*,¹ published by the Military Education Committee of the University. It supplies a record of all the fallen and of the circumstances in which they died; a list of all those who received honours and awards, the citations accompanying such grants being quoted in full; and details of the services, whether abroad or at home, of all officers, former officers, and former cadets of the University of London Officers' Training Corps, known to have rendered commissioned service in the war between August 5th, 1914, and November 11th, 1918. The roll of the fallen contains 665 names, the total number of those who served being 4,276. Of these, 1,068 gained between them 1,726 honours and distinctions. Five officers were awarded the Victoria Cross, and photographs of them are supplied. One of them, J. Fox Russell, was a captain in the R.A.M.C., but, as in the case of two others of the group, he was killed in action. The frontispiece is a picture of the first adjutant of the Corps, Lieut.-Colonel A. E. Egerton, who, like so many others, was killed in action before the harvest of honours had ripened. There are three appendices, one of which deals with statistics, another with the establishment of the Corps at its initiation in 1909, and a third with its doings from that date to the spring of 1920. From the first of these we gather, but not too easily, that in the matter of the number of officers supplied by the medical schools of the University the place of honour belongs to St. Bartholomew's and Guy's, each of them sending 235.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The Primary Fellowship course in physiology will begin on Wednesday, September 21st, at 2 p.m.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The Goldsmid Entrance Exhibitions of 112 guineas each have been awarded to A. E. Blake Pritchard, King's College, Cambridge, and N. L. White, St. John's College, Cambridge.

¹ *Roll of War Service, 1914-1919*. University of London Officers' Training Corps. London: Published by the Military Education Committee. 1921. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 371. Cloth, £1 1s.; half-leather, £1 11s. 6d.; full leather, £2 2s.)

THE movement known as Health Week has as its object to focus public attention for one week in the year on matters of health, and to arouse a sense of individual responsibility for health, without which all public health work must fall short of its aims. The Health Week Committee is working in co-operation with the National Baby Week Council, and local committees are being formed all over the country, comprising representatives of every public body and private society in any way concerned with health, and of every agency which has influence with any considerable section of the community. This year Health Week will be held from October 9th to 15th, and the secretary of the movement is Mr. E. White Wallis, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

Medical News.

AT the opening of the Grosvenor telephone exchange as a relief exchange the numbers of certain medical subscribers in London have been altered. A list showing the members of the medical profession involved, and the date of transfer, may be seen at the Library of the British Medical Association.

THE Ministry of Pensions desire to call the attention of officers, nurses, and men, and widows and dependants of deceased officers and men who served during the great war, to the fact that any new claim to pension, grant, gratuity, or allowance in respect of disablement must be made within seven years after the date on which the claimant was discharged, or within seven years after the official date of the termination of the war (August 31st, 1921), whichever date is the earlier. A person is deemed to have been discharged from the service at the time when his active service terminated. Any claimant (including the widow or other dependent relative of a deceased officer or man) who desires to appeal to a Pensions Appeal Tribunal against the rejection of a claim to pension must do so within a period of twelve months after the date of the rejection or after the date of the commencement of the Act (August 19th, 1921), whichever is the later date.

THE Guy's Hospital biennial dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 26th, at the Connaught Rooms, London. Mr. Montagu Hopson will preside, and tickets, price 15s. exclusive of wine, may be obtained from Mr. Arthur W. Ormond, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., 7, Devonshire Place, Upper Wimpole Street, W.1.

WE have received a copy of the form of certificate referred to in the Order issued under the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1920, authorizing farmers and stockowners to purchase tincture of opium for administration to animals. The person holding the certificate must not have in his possession more than 32 oz. at any one time, and he may only purchase from the particular person whose name he writes on the certificate. The date of purchase and the quantity purchased must be filled in by the supplier on each occasion of any purchase by the holder. Bottles or vessels containing the tincture must be labelled with the words "For administration to animals only."

THE annual dinner of old students of University College Hospital will be held at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, on Thursday, October 6th, at 7.30 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Dr. Henry D. Waugh. The secretaries are Dr. A. M. H. Gray and Mr. Gwynne Williams.

A VACATION course in pediatric surgery and orthopaedics will be conducted by Dr. H. L. Rocher, of the Faculty of Medicine of Bordeaux, from October 12th to 17th. Further particulars may be obtained from Dr. Rocher, Orthopaedic Clinic, 91, Rue Judaïque, Bordeaux.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a committee to re-examine the question of the danger from the use of lead paints to workers in the painting trades, the comparative efficiency and cost, and the effect on the health of the workers, of paints containing lead and leadless paints respectively; and to advise whether any modification of the conclusions and recommendations of the Departmental Committees appointed in 1911 has become necessary. The members of the Committee are the Right Hon. Sir Henry Norman, Bt., M.P. (Chairman), Mr. Gerald Bellhouse, C.B.E., Dr. O. J. Kauffmann, Dr. Thomas M. Legge, C.B.E., Mr. Alan Munby, F.R.I.B.A., Mr. Alexander Scott, F.R.S., D.Sc., and Mr. H. O. Weller. The secretary is Mr. C. W. Price, of the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, to whom any communications should be addressed.

A SPECIAL post-graduate course will be held at the North-East London Post-Graduate College (Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham), in association with the Fellowship of Medicine and the Post-Graduate Medical Association, from September 26th to October 8th. Demonstrations and clinical lectures will extend over practically the whole day, from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., and will include subjects from the various branches of medicine and surgery. Luncheon is obtainable in the neighbourhood of the hospital, and tea will be provided each day. The fee for the complete course, to those not members of the Fellowship of Medicine, is 5 guineas, or 3 guineas for either week. Applications to attend the course should be sent not later than September 22nd to the dean at the hospital, or to the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine at 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

THE twenty-fifth French Congress of Medicine, the thirtieth French Surgical Congress, the third annual meeting of the Société d'Orthopédie, and the twenty-first

French Urology Congress will all meet at Strasbourg from October 3rd to 6th. The medical and surgical associations hold a common session the first day to discuss anti-anaphylaxis as presented by Widai, in addition to reports on the heart, lungs, and digestive tract. The main topics for discussion at the Surgical Congress are traumatic epilepsy, vaccine therapy in joint disease, and the remote results of treatment of mammary cancer. The Orthopaedic Society will discuss arthrodesis of the foot, ankylosis of the knee, and non-operative treatment of congenital luxation of the hip-joint, and the urologists anaesthesia of the urinary passages.

THE University College War Memorial Committee asks for assistance in completing two publications now in course of preparation; the first is the *Pro Patria* list of those who served in the war; it now contains some 3,000 names. Should there be any alumni by whom or their relatives papers of inquiry have not been received they are asked to communicate at once with Sir Gregory Foster, chairman of the committee and of the college. A War Memorial Album, containing the records and portraits of alumni who gave their lives in the war, is also in preparation. The committee has not yet been able to obtain full particulars of some eighty men known to have fallen. If the War Memorial Album form has not been received by relatives of any man who died, they are asked to communicate with the chairman.

THE second part of the third course of lectures and practical courses of instruction given at the Maudsley Hospital for the diploma of psychological medicine will commence on October 3rd, when Sir Frederick Mott will give the first of six lectures on the pathology of mental diseases, including brain syphilis; and Dr. Bernard Hart will begin a course of eight lectures on the psychoneuroses. Courses on the practical aspect of mental deficiency by Dr. F. C. Shrubbsall, on crime and insanity by Dr. W. C. Sullivan, and on symptoms of mental disease by Dr. E. Mapother, will begin in the same week. A series of demonstrations will be given by Dr. F. Golla, Dr. C. Hubert Bond, and Sir Frederick Mott. Full particulars can be obtained on application to Sir Frederick Mott, M.D., F.R.S., at the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.5.

ALTHOUGH flag days have rather fallen out of favour, there is one honourable exception which continues to be held every year—"Our Day," the flag day of the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society, which this year will take place on October 1st. The peace work of the Joint Council includes contributions in support of hospitals, help to the Central Council for Infant and Child Welfare, dépôts for the hire of surgical and sick-room requisites, and a motor ambulance service throughout the country. Further particulars may be had from Sir Arthur Stanley, 19, Berkeley Street, W.1.

THE next international congress of urology will be held at Rome under the presidency of Professor Roberto Alessandri.

THE annual conference of public health officers and public health nurses of New York State will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, from September 13th to 15th.

AMONG the subjects to be discussed at the second congress of French-speaking gynaecologists and obstetricians, which, as already announced, will be held in Paris from September 29th to October 1st, are the following: disorders of thyroid function in their relation with pregnancy; medical and social protection of the pregnant woman; indications for abdominal hysterectomy in labour (in addition to pelvic deformities); hysterectomy in acute puerperal infection; and radium therapy (a) in fibroid tumours, (b) in cancer of the cervix and body of the uterus, (c) in metrorrhagia (not including uterine cancer and fibroids). The secretaries of the congress are Drs. Brindeau, 71, Rue de Grenelle, and Couvelaire, 21, Rue Louis-David, Paris.

APPLICATIONS for training in some occupation other than nursing from nurses in receipt of a disability pension, who by reason of any disablement due to war service are unable to return to their pre-war occupation, must reach the Controller, Women's Training Branch, Ministry of Labour, St. Ermin's, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1, on or before October 31st, 1921.

THE dedication of a bronze tablet in honour of 185 graduates of Syracuse University College of Medicine who served in the great war took place during the recent commencement exercises held at the college.

It is reported that Western Reserve University, U.S.A., has received 500,000 dollars from Mr. Samuel Mather to be used in the construction of the new medical college building.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.

3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

"F. B. C." asks for help in the diagnosis of the following case. A young married woman, aged 31, has dilatation of the left pupil during the day; at night this pupil tends to contract and becomes smaller than the right, which dilates normally in the dark. The left patella reflex is exaggerated, but the right is difficult to elicit. She is rather emotional.

DR. J. A. BALL.—The gravel filter is probably too small, and the effluent from the cisterns is being passed through it too rapidly. Some other material (such as coke breeze), either in conjunction with the sand or otherwise, might be tried as a filtering material, but it is essential that the process of filtering should be slow.

INCOME TAX.

"T. B." has sold his partnership owing to ill health, and is now able to do "very light work." The inspector of taxes has notified him that he will be assessed at £250, and that he should give notice of objection in due course if that amount is considered excessive.

* * "T. B." is in effect starting a new source of profit, and in our opinion the more usual course for the revenue authorities to adopt is to leave the question over until the end of the first year of the new work. In this case an estimated assessment is being made beforehand, but that will not prejudice our correspondent if he gives notice of objection on receiving the formal notice of the assessment. That will necessarily put the matter in abeyance until "T. B." can supply particulars of his earnings for 1921. As the partnership was sold as from December 31st, 1920, a claim can be made, so far as "T. B." is concerned, for an adjustment, as between himself and the purchaser, of the tax payable for the financial year ended April 5th, 1921.

"DUNELM." sold his practice as from December 31st, 1920, but continues to receive payments from outstanding professional debts. Is he liable to income tax thereon for 1921-22?

* * No. "Dunelm." is not in receipt of any "income" from the practice for 1921-22; that income terminated with his sale of the practice, and what he is now receiving represents realizations of debts accumulated during his professional work. Of course, if he is doing some specialist's work he would be liable to assessment on any income arising therefrom. It would be advisable for him to see his local inspector of taxes and explain the whole position. He has a right to amend his return, or could appeal against an assessment made thereon.

"PURCHASER" inquires whether any deduction can be claimed for the cost of the purchase of the premises used for the practice which was compulsory, no alternative premises being available.

* * No portion of the cost of purchase can be deducted, but as from the date of the transfer a proportion of the net Schedule A assessment can be deducted in lieu of the proportion of rent. If a loan has been obtained in connexion with the purchase, income tax at 6s. should be deducted from the interest paid, unless it is paid to the bank, in which case an allowance can be claimed by application to the local inspector of taxes.