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FEB 23 1927

The

British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



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WITH SUPPLEMENT.

No. 3448.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1927.

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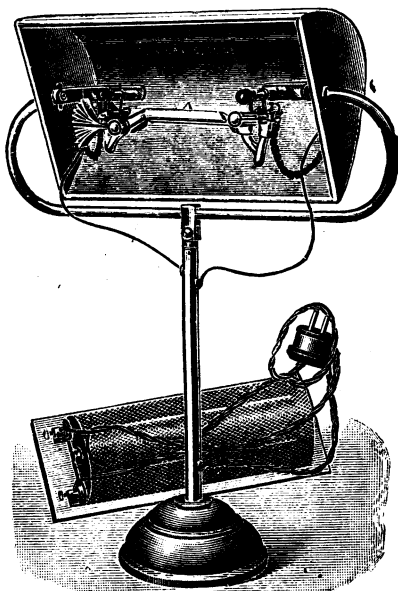
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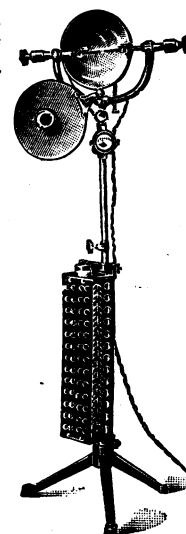
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3. The best time to give Santonin is at bed-time, after a light evening meal. It is not necessary to compound it with any other drug, but a purge should be given about twelve hours later.

WORMS.

Many of the more recent additions to our knowledge of worms are not yet commonly known. A few of the more important new facts are:

1. Worms are much more prevalent than is generally supposed. Their presence should be suspected in children showing signs of malnutrition, anæmia, gastritis, and loss of sleep.
2. It frequently happens that children are treated for phthisis when in reality they are infested with roundworms. Many cases of cough in children are cases of throat cough caused by roundworms, and not lung cough at all.
3. Roundworm larvæ migrate to the lungs causing inflammation and "parasitic pneumonia." They are suspected of being attendant factors in the development of tuberculosis.
4. The constant nibbling and sucking of the mucosæ of the intestine by worms produce abrasions and lesions which facilitate the entrance of micro-organisms.
5. Worms secrete poisons which are absorbed by the host and cause nervous disturbances.

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LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR JOHN GOODWIN, K.C.B., who was Director-General of the Army Medical Service from 1918 to 1923, has been appointed Governor of Queensland. Sir John Goodwin rendered distinguished service during the war. He holds the Mons star and the Allied and Victory medals, and received the C.M.G. in 1915 and the C.B. in 1918. He went with Mr. Balfour's mission to the United States in 1917 and was very successful in explaining to the American medical profession the position in which we were at that time; he received the American distinguished service medal and decorations from France, Belgium, and Italy. Earlier in his career he served with several expeditionary forces on the Indian frontier. Since his retirement he has been acting as Organizing Adviser of the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

A BEQUEST of 25,000 dols. (£5,000) for the establishment of a free dental clinic at Musselburgh has been made by Mr. Julius Brown, who died at Santa Monica, near Los Angeles, California, on December 9th last. Mr. Brown was a native of Musselburgh.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

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, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the **JOURNAL**, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The **TELEPHONE NUMBERS** of the British Medical Association and the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** are *MUSEUM* 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864 (internal exchange, four lines).

The **TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES** are:

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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, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 4361 Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

DR. H. G. BURFORD (London, W.1), who has heard that varix has been treated successfully in Vienna by a solution of grape sugar, wishes to know whether the method has been tried in this country, and with what results.

POST-INFLUENZAL COUGH.

IN our issue of January 15th (p. 124) "W. H. F." asked for suggestions for the treatment of persistent cough following acute influenza which had resisted all sedatives. The following suggestion has been received in reply from "M. R. S.": Benzyl benzoate, 2 to 8 minims, as an emulsion or in capsules, acts almost "like a charm," especially for those paroxysms which occur in the early hours of the morning. As the patient gains strength the tendency to these "attacks" is lessened and finally disappears.

IODINE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.

DR. A. E. COLLIE (Newport, I.W.) writes in answer to "M.B." (January 15th, p. 124): The following two cases at present under my care may be of interest. Mr. A., aged 73, has had rheumatoid arthritis for several years and has been unable, owing to pain and stiffness of his joints, either to dress or feed himself without assistance. Miss B., aged 44, has been crippled by rheumatoid arthritis for the past ten or twelve years. There is much deformity of the hands and toes, and she suffers considerable pain in the limbs. For the past three months both patients have been taking 20 minims of syrup of iodide of iron in water night and morning, together with 1 drachm of Crookes's colloidal iodine three times a day after food. After the first dose or two of the colloidal iodine, Mr. A. complained of sickness. I therefore combined the drug with 20 minims of liquid extract of liquorice and half an ounce of chloroform water, and this combination eliminated the nausea and vomiting. After two months of this treatment Mr. A. was able to dress himself alone and lace his own boots. He can now walk over half a mile, which he has not been able to do for the past three years. In the case of Miss B. the results are not so striking, but the treatment has certainly improved her condition and the pain is not so severe.

INCOME TAX.

"E. R. B." is working as an assistant and uses a two-seater car, averaging 100 miles a week. He has been allowed a sum of £50 per annum only for expenses as compared with his employer's allowance of £350 for two cars. What should he claim?

* It has to be remembered that the rules for allowances to employees fall under Schedule E and are more restrictive than those under Schedule D—for example, there is no allowance for depreciation as such, though presumably the cost of renewal can be claimed for when necessarily incurred. We advise "E. R. B." to claim the amount of his actual running expenses for the year (revising his claim when the year expires if necessary), but excluding any expenses incurred in the private use of the car, and to intimate in doing so that he intends to lodge a supplementary claim for replacement of the car for the year in which that expenditure is incurred.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

ACQUIRED MELANISM IN MOTHS TRANSMITTED BY INHERITANCE.

MELANISM is a subject which attracts increasing interest in biology as well as medicine, and in the issue of *Nature* (January 22nd, p. 127) Dr. J. W. Heslop Harrison has published an interesting account of acquired melanism occurring in certain moths in districts which have become industrialized. On Tyneside twenty-five years ago the moth Mottled Beauty corresponded with its name; now every specimen captured has become black. The same has been observed to occur in other species, such as the Pale Brindled Beauty and the Engrailed. On the Continent similar instances of the development of melanism, affecting the Poplar Lutestrig, and the Great Oak Beauty, have been noted in districts which have become the seat of industry. The Peppered Moth has gone black both in England and in America (at Pittsburg), as also the Small Engrailed. As large amounts of manganese have been found in the foliage of trees upon which the larvae feed in Middlesbrough Park, larvae were fed on foliage contaminated by manganese, also by lead, and breeding yielded melanized individuals. The larvae of these in turn were fed on uncontaminated food, but the acquired melanism was transmitted to its descendants. Thus acquired melanism was proved to be transmissible by inheritance.

WOMEN ON HOSPITAL STAFFS.

WE continue to receive letters commenting on a statement made in our issue of November 6th that we believed that the election of Miss Lily Baker, B.A., M.B., to the staff of the Bristol Royal Infirmary created an important precedent, implying that a woman had not previously been appointed to full membership of the honorary medical staff of a general hospital with a teaching school. In a later issue we qualified this statement by excepting the Royal Free Hospital; and we are reminded by Miss May Thorne that at this hospital the Committee of Management appointed a woman on its staff as honorary gynaecologist in 1902. Since then, of course, a number of appointments of women have been made at the Royal Free Hospital. Miss Marion B. Andrews points out that at the Ulster Hospital for Children and Women at Belfast, a teaching hospital in connexion with the Queen's University, she was appointed assistant surgeon in 1904, full surgeon in 1906, and consulting surgeon in 1917.

APPROPOS of a previous reference to appointments at children's hospitals Dr. C. BUTTAR writes that, as a mere man, he objects to the assumption that a children's hospital, even if used for teaching, can be described as a general hospital. It is true, he says, that the word "special" is used of hospitals in two senses, either of special diseases or of a special class of patient; but a general hospital, surely, is a place where any persons (including men) can be attended for any disease.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO CIRCUMCISION.

DR. I. M. JEFFERISS (Lakenheath) writes: The description of the simple procedure required in the treatment of cases of phimosis by the late Dr. D. W. Whitfield (January 29th, p. 187) should be hung up in every hospital out-patient department. To circumcise a normal boy is a barbarous and unnecessary operation. Circumcision is only required when retraction of the prepuce is impossible owing to scar tissue or other results of balanitis. A protective covering to the glans penis is not an abnormal condition, and apart from the performance of the operation as a religious rite there is no need to cut off a portion of the human body for the sake of cleanliness. Every prepuce unaffected by pathological conditions can be retracted by the aid of a blunt probe and a little patience. Recurrent herpes of the glans has been treated by me by fixing a permanently retracted prepuce over the glans with lint and strapping until the organ regained its natural protective covering. There is no need to stretch the prepuce and no more need to remove it than there is to remove the average visible and properly developed tonsil.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 43, 46, and 47 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44 and 45.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 47.

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—, —, —, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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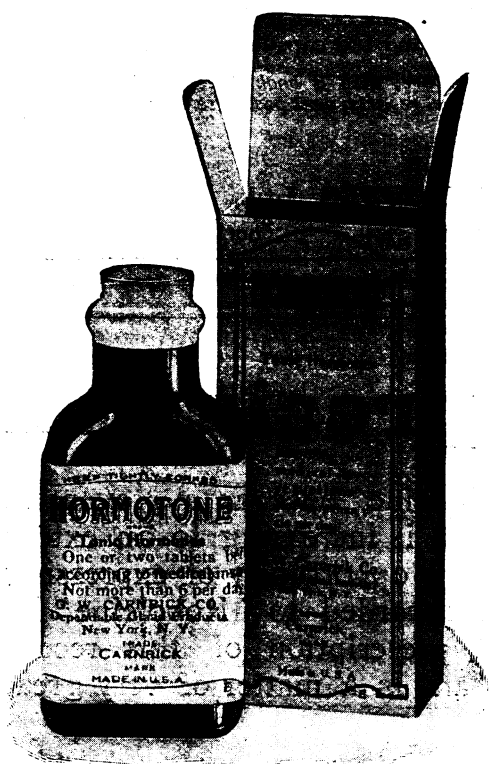
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