

The

# British Medical Journal

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*Including an Epitome of Current Medical Literature.*  
**WITH SUPPLEMENT.**

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

#### RECURRENT TONSILLITIS.

"**SCRUTATOR**" asks for suggestions for treatment of a girl, aged 17 years, who annually suffers from a violent attack of pustular tonsillitis. The tonsils were removed in childhood, and a second operation carried out two years ago. At this time, also septic teeth were cleared from the mouth. Can recurrence be prevented?

#### EPIPHORA.

"**G. A.**" (Norfolk) wishes to hear of a remedy for the treatment of epiphora occurring without obvious cause. In his case there is no naso-pharyngeal or lacrymal trouble, no obstruction to out-flow, or conjunctivitis, neuralgia, or obvious gland trouble, or error of refraction. Everything appears normal except the increased secretion on very slight excitation, such as change of temperature, or exposure.

#### INCOME TAX.

"**WEST AFRICAN MEDICAL STAFF**" inquires what tax would be payable on pension and emoluments amounting to £1,270.

\*.\* At the present rate of tax, and assuming that he is entitled to earned income relief, the amount of tax would be £162 2s. If he is married that sum would be reduced by £18, and, of course, other allowances might be due—children, life assurance, etc. Earned income is defined in Section 14, Income Tax Act, 1918, to include "any pension superannuation, or other allowance, deferred pay or compensation for loss of office given in respect of the past services of the individual . . . in any office or employment of profit." *Prima facie* this would seem to cover our correspondent's case.

"**X. Y.**" a whole-time county medical officer of health, who would not have a car but for professional purposes, replaced a second-hand car by a new one of similar make—cost of replacement (as distinct from improvement), say £100. What allowance can he claim?

\*.\* The statute gives an allowance in such circumstances only in respect of expenses incurred wholly exclusively and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the office. The inquirer does not state what allowance, if any, he receives from the county for the use of a car; if he receives such an allowance it will be a little difficult to satisfy the local income tax authorities that it is insufficient to cover all car expenses. If he does not, he might press a claim to a proportion of the renewal cost calculated according to the ratio of "county" to "personal" use over the life of the displaced car.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### THE HISTORY OF DIPHTHERIA.

**FLEET SURGEON W. E. HOME** writes: Dr. E. W. Goodall's interesting letter in the **JOURNAL** of January 29th (p. 216) explains to me at last the great puzzle of "croup," which harassed one so much, as he says, forty or more years ago, and I blush to think it may have been inflicted on us by Francis Home. I suppose

there was some good in his book on croup (1765), for it was translated into French, and published in Paris forty years later in 1810 (*Dict. Nat. Biography*), though I cannot say if it sold. The further one examines the nearer one gets to Dr. J. D. Rolleston's view that diphtheria was not truly differentiated in the eighteenth century. Osler says Aretaeus described it; that was many centuries earlier.

#### VACCINATION AND SMALL-POX.

"**D.P.H.**" writes to express the view that the public will never get vaccinated so long as vaccination is performed by the vaccination officer. Every medical man is competent to vaccinate—an operation any student can perform. "**D.P.H.**" suggests that every practitioner should vaccinate in his own practice and receive a fee of, say, 3s. 6d., which is only half the usual fee. In this way, he thinks, nearly 100 per cent. of the population would be vaccinated.

#### HERPES ZOSTER AND VARICELLA.

**DR. J. M. LOFTUS** (Brockley) reports the case of a woman, aged 22, who spent the Christmas holidays in the country. While there a doctor was called to attend her mother, aged 56, for herpes. The younger woman began to suffer from chicken-pox on January 14th, the typical vesicles appearing on the following day.

#### THE VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL AND ITS FUTURE.

"**BRIGHTON**" writes: I have read with interest Mr. Hogarth's article (**SUPPLEMENT**, February 5th, p. 37) on the future of the voluntary hospital. In his suggestion for opening the doors of hospitals to the middle classes he appears to have overlooked the item of fees to the surgeon or physician in charge. He mentions the paying wards of the Brighton Hospital; they are there, but the doctors are not allowed to accept any fees, because the man who founded and endowed the wards expressly forbade this in his will. Also the Sussex Provident Scheme, which supplies everything to all and sundry, does so at the expense of men who get no fees.

#### INTESTINAL DISINFECTION.

**DR. L. WHEELER** (London, W.) writes with reference to disinfectants given by the mouth to suggest that the subject is of such vital importance as to warrant a special research inquiry into the *in vitro* and *in vivo* action of some of the known antiseptics and bactericides. The results of such a research undertaken by the Ministry of Health or the British Medical Association would be welcomed as valuable illumination on the practicability, or impossibility, of affecting the faecal flora by disinfectants given by the mouth. It should be possible with rats, rabbits, etc., to obtain direct information as to the changes occurring in the intestinal flora with definite doses of different antiseptics introduced into various lengths of gut and contrasted with controls to which the trial preparation has been given by the mouth.

#### "THE MICROTOMIST'S VADEMECUM."

**PROFESSOR J. BRONTÉ GATENBY** (Zoological Department, Trinity College, Dublin) writes: It is proposed to bring out shortly a new edition of *Lee's Microtomist's Vademecum*. The eighth edition was published in 1921, and there is now a call for a new edition, which will include recent advances. The ninth edition, which I am editing in conjunction with Dr. E. V. Cowdry of the Rockefeller Institute, N.Y., will, in addition to general technique, contain articles by the following specialists: Dr. Da Fano, "Neurological technique"; Dr. Helen Pixell-Goodrich, "Protozoa"; Dr. W. R. G. Atkins, "Histological applications of measurements of acidity and alkalinity, and of oxidation and reduction"; Dr. Robert Chambers, "Microsurgery" (that is, microdissection, etc.); Dr. Payling Wright and Dr. Rogers Brambell, "Cultivation of tissues *in vitro*"; Dr. W. Cramer, "Fats"; Mr. Thornton Carter, "Bone and teeth," and various sections by Dr. Reginald Ludford and myself on cytological technique. The purpose of this letter is to invite research workers and others to forward to me, as soon as possible, any new information they may have. I may mention that it is not proposed to include bacteriological technique in the forthcoming edition.

#### A MANCHESTER DISCLAIMER.

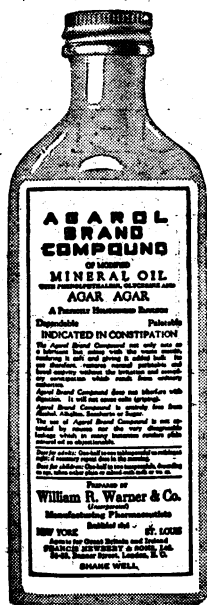
**THE Manchester Guardian** appears to be in the habit of publishing under its list of deaths advertisements from families desiring to express thanks for sympathy shown to them in a bereavement. One of these, dated February 8th, contains an expression of the family's thanks to Dr. Grant Davie for his unremitting care of the patient. Dr. Grant Davie asks us to state that he had no knowledge of or connexion with the announcement. We have seen such tributes in American and some other foreign and overseas newspapers, but we agree with Dr. Davie that the practice is to be condemned.

#### VACANCIES.

**NOTIFICATIONS** of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 51.

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