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WITH SUPPLEMENT.

No. 3462.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1927.

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THE Fellowship of Medicine announces that demonstrations will be given by Dr. B. T. Parsons-Smith at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, on May 17th, at 10 a.m.; by Mr. Maurice Whiting, at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, on May 19th, at 1 p.m.; by Mr. Maynard Smith, at St. Mary's Hospital, on May 20th, at 2 p.m. These demonstrations are free to medical practitioners. From May 16th to 28th a special course will be held at the Infants Hospital, and there will be a late afternoon course at the Hampstead General Hospital for two weeks from May 16th. A ten weeks' course in neurology began on May 9th at the National Hospital, Queen Square. The Fellowship of Medicine can arrange for practical courses in anaesthetics and obstetrics, and for clinical assistantships in gynaecology. During June special courses will be held in diseases of the chest at the Victoria Park Hospital, in diseases of children at the Children's Clinic, in gynaecology at the Chelsea Hospital, and in ophthalmology at the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital. The Fellowship provides also a general course of instruction at the associated hospitals. Copies of all syllabuses and of the *Post-Graduate Medical Journal* may be obtained from the Secretary of the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

A SERIES of lectures and counter-lectures in aid of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London is being held during May and June in the Great Hall of the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, on Tuesdays, at 5.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the British Charities Association, 103, Kingsway, W.C.2. The subjects are varied, but their irresponsible character may be gathered if we mention that the last debate of the series, on Tuesday, June 21st, will be between Mr. G. K. Chesterton and Mr. Mitchell Banks, K.C., M.P., with Miss Rose Macaulay in the chair, the subject being "Is the House of Commons any use?"

A COURSE of four consecutive week-end demonstrations will be given at St. Bartholomew's Hospital during June and July, commencing at 5 p.m., on Friday afternoons, and terminating on Saturday evenings. On June 17th and 18th the subject will be modern methods in the diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases of the lungs, and the following week-end will be devoted to the treatment of the common fractures of general practice. The diagnosis and treatment of chronic renal disease will be considered on July 1st and 2nd, and ante-natal methods will be dealt with on July 8th and 9th. The fee for each week-end is one guinea, or four guineas for the course. Further information may be obtained from the Dean, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.

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:

EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology Westcent, London.*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediscera Westcent, London.*

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.

A BRITISH medical man, aged 62, resident abroad, has a blood pressure of 170 to 200, and suffers from daily attacks of pain, beginning over the centre of the sternum, spreading to both sides of the neck and head, and down both arms. It is worse after food or any little excitement. He asks for advice.

FACIAL SPASM IN A CHILD.

"A. G." asks for suggestions in regard to treatment and prognosis in the following case: A boy, aged 5 years, has developed a facial habit-spasm. He frequently draws up his nose and winks the eye at the same time on the side affected. Adenoids were removed some time ago, and his teeth were damaged at the time of the operation. He has been troubled with enuresis, which is practically cured. Otherwise he is healthy and is very quick at learning.

ASPIRIN AND POTASSIUM CITRATE.

DR. BRODRIBB (Penmaenmawr), having observed that aspirin dissolves freely when prescribed together with potassium citrate, inquires whether the dissolution implies a chemical change in the drug and consequent modification of its therapeutic value.

* * The solution of aspirin by potassium citrate is unaccompanied by any chemical reaction, and there is accordingly no change in the nature of its physiological action. But although its chemical identity is preserved, there may be a notable difference in the therapeutic effects, for apart from the independent action of the potassium citrate, the speed and even the locus of absorption may be altered. It is said that aspirin passes through the stomach unchanged, but is slowly decomposed by the alkali of the duodenum, with liberation of salicylic acid. It would accordingly seem that its dissolution in potassium citrate would result in a larger absorption by the stomach and less being carried forward to the duodenum.

INCOME TAX.

Partnership Assessments.

A and B were equal partners in a practice until June 1st, 1926, when A's share was transferred to C. In whose names should the returns be made and how should the assessment be divided?

* * The return should be made by "A and B and successors B and C." In dividing the liability it should be borne in mind that it is the gross assessment—that is, the amount assessed before any personal allowances are deducted—that serves as the basis of the division. The shares of the gross assessment attributable to each partner will be as follows—A $\frac{1}{2}$, B $\frac{1}{2}$, and C $\frac{1}{2}$; from these shares the full amount of the personal allowances due to each partner should be deducted. Thus if the amount of the assessable earnings less professional expenses is £3,200, A will be liable to tax on £400 less the £225 personal allowance and any others to which he may be entitled.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

VITAL-STATISTICAL FACTS NOT GENERALLY RECOGNIZED.

DR. B. DUNLOP (London, S.W.) writes: It is stated in your issue of May 7th (p. 850) that "although some seventy thousand more babies were born in France than in England and Wales in 1926, the excess is reduced to little more than twenty-six thousand if account is taken of the higher rate of infant mortality across the Channel." The French rate was 83 and ours was 70, and $765,226 \text{ minus } 133\frac{1}{2}$ of $766,226$ exceeds $694,897 \text{ minus } 133\frac{1}{2}$ of $694,897$ by more than twice "twenty-six thousand." The slip or misprint is unfortunate, because people should know that the French death rate is only slightly excessive among the infants, but is slightly excessive also among the rest of the population. This suggests that the population is still pressing on its food supply and that there will be no further decline of the general death rate unless there be a further reduction of the birth rate.

EARLY PARENTHOOD.

DR. A. R. RENDLE (Godalming) writes: Docteur Cabanès, in his book *Le sixième Sens*, quotes the case of childbirth in a girl aged 13, of another case in which the mother was aged 12, and of another case, occurring in Paris in 1756, in which the mother was 9½ years old.

FOREIGN BODY IN RECTUM.

"R. B. G." writes: I can add a third case to the two recent notes. An old friend (of my college days), who sent for me while on a visit to the neighbourhood many years ago, complained of a constant desire to defaecate, with slight melaena. On examination I felt a hard, longish, thin substance lying across the exit, which, on removal, not without difficulty and pain, turned out to be a codfish bone. On informing him he said that he had partaken of a fish supper two nights previously.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 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 203.

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