

A RESEARCH institute for psychiatry, consisting of serological, genealogical, chemical, histological, anatomical, and psychological departments, for which the funds have been provided by the Rockefeller Foundation, will be opened at Munich next May.

THE Congress of the German Society of Internal Medicine will be held at Wiesbaden under the presidency of Professor L. R. Müller from April 16th to 19th, when the following subjects will be discussed: the influence of cancer on metabolism, introduced by Drs. Warburg of Berlin, Gräfe of Würzburg, and Sack of Heidelberg; and chronic splenomegalies, introduced by Drs. Hueck of Leipzig, Naegeli of Zürich, and Lubarsch of Berlin.

In the French journal *Le Temps* for December 24th, 1927, there is an account of the prosecution of a masseur for having employed ultra-violet rays in treatment. It was held by the court that this procedure was liable to give rise to complications, and was dangerous except in the hands of medical practitioners. A fine accordingly was inflicted on the masseur.

THE following appointments have recently been made in the German faculties of medicine: Dr. Friedrich Pietrusky of Breslau, professor of medical jurisprudence at Halle; Dr. Victor Freiherr von Weizsäcker, professor of internal medicine at Heidelberg; Dr. Georg August Wagner of Prague, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Berlin; Dr. Georg B. Gruber of Innsbruck, professor of pathology at Göttingen.

THE King has conferred the rank of Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George upon Dr. Aldo Castellani, C.M.G., Director of Tropical Medicine at the Ross Institute, Putney Heath.

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.**

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

HIRSUTIES.

"A. M. V." would be glad to hear of any method of treatment, glandular or otherwise, of general hirsuties in a girl, aged 25, who is in other respects normal.

TREATMENT OF ULCERS OF THE MOUTH.

"X. Y. Z." asks for suggestions for the treatment of small ulcers of the mouth and tongue, from which he has suffered at intervals for some years. He states that he is a non-smoker and an abstainer, and often uses a mouth wash. He has no obvious foci of sepsis, but continues to suffer from these small ulcerations, and has some glandular pain at times. His age is 27.

PAINLESS NATURAL LABOUR.

DR. A. BURN (Crawley, Sussex) asks if such a case as the following is a very rare event. He was called to a primipara, aged 29, at 9 p.m., as the membranes had ruptured, and found that the os admitted a finger. There had been no pains, and as apparently all was quiescent, both the nurse and patient went to bed. At 5.30 a.m., after only a little straining, which was not all painful, a 7½ lb. female child was born, to the intense surprise of patient and nurse. The patient stated that, apart from restlessness, which prevented her sleeping, and a dull ache in the groins, which lasted an hour or so, she had no pain whatsoever.

INCOME TAX.

"Loco No. 2" refers to our reply to "Loco" in our issue of November 12th last, and explains that his local inspector has refused to allow the deduction of agent's commissions on the ground that the expense is incurred before going to the place of professional duty. He is assessed under Schedule D.

"* * We think that the inspector's view is based on the assumption that "Loco No. 2's" professional activities are discontinuous and can properly be dealt with separately. A more correct view, in our opinion, is that he is continually carrying on his profession in a particular way, and that the expense is incurred because of the manner in which he exercises his profession, and is not anterior or exterior to its exercise. The true analogy is not with some agency for obtaining employment, but rather with an agent arranging various engagements for, say, a concert singer. The fact that the assessment is made under Schedule D, and not under Schedule E, shows that the earnings are treated as those of a profession and not as those of an employment. We are not aware of any case on the point under Schedule D; our correspondent might ask the inspector to quote one in support of his contention, especially as the equity is with the taxpayer in this case."

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

HERPES ZOSTER AND VARICELLA.

DR. ALETHEA J. EAMES (Wrexham) writes to record one more instance of the association of herpes zoster and varicella. On November 29th, 1927, she was consulted by a man, aged 22, on account of a profuse eruption of herpes zoster involving the distribution of the first three lumbar cutaneous nerves on the right side, and extending almost to the mid-line of the body. The pain was not severe, and was easily controlled by the internal administration of sodium salicylate and the application of calamine powder. On December 13th the patient's sister, aged 18, developed a typical attack of chicken-pox, with vesicles of varying size over the whole body, a temperature of 102°, which fell to normal two days later, and a coated tongue. The girl had not been away from home, had seen no visitors, and there had been no other case of chicken-pox in that district. Dr. Eames has twice before had similar experiences, the most recent being three years ago, when the first patient was a school-boy with herpes zoster of the left temporal region, followed just over a fortnight later by chicken-pox in a brother and sister. Dr. Eames believes that there are two distinct forms of herpes zoster, one as described previously, and the other occurring in elderly persons, with less eruption but far more pain, which requires morphine; the second variety is not followed by chicken-pox in contacts.

AN EGG-CUP IN THE RECTUM.

DR. HILDRED CARLILL (London, W.) writes with reference to Mr. A. Hopkins's note on a novel haemostat in our last issue (p. 52): I recall clearly a night some twenty years ago at Guy's spent in the piecemeal removal of a china egg-cup of ordinary size from a rectum in which it was lodged intact. The concavity presented and was just in reach of the finger. The lady had not used it as a haemostat. I fancy that she was a little drunk and came up to say that she had lost an egg-cup. When we found it for her she said that she must have sat on it. Mr. S. W. Daw of Leeds will recollect the incident.

TREATMENT OF PROSTATIC ENLARGEMENT.

"GENERAL PRACTITIONER" (Dublin) refers to the numerous letters published in the **JOURNAL** during the last few months on the surgical treatment of prostatic enlargement, and suggests that it would be both interesting and instructive to have the opinions of radiologists, physicians, and general practitioners on other than surgical procedures. He adds that he has noted definite improvement follow ordinary x-ray treatment and also the administration of prostatic gland substance.

THERAPEUTIC INJECTIONS OF DISTILLED WATER.

DR. G. ARBOUR STEPHENS (Swansea), referring to the use of therapeutic injections of distilled water (*Epitome*, December 3rd, 1927, para. 523), states that in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science* for April, 1926, there was an article dealing with the therapeutics of distilled water, a subject discussed by Dr. Arbour Stephens himself in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**, 1913, 1, p. 706.

A DISCLAIMER.

DR. S. BALLANTINE (Leicester) writes to disclaim all responsibility for the publication of his name in a death notice. He has protested to the management of the daily paper concerned.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 40, 41, 44, and 45 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 42 and 43.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 23.