

THE Congress of French-speaking Alienists and Neurologists will be held at Antwerp, under the presidency of Professors Henri Claude of Paris and Auguste Ley of Brussels, on July 23rd, when the following questions will be discussed: catatonias, introduced by Professor Paul Divry of Liège; neuralgias of the upper limb, introduced by Professor H. Roger of Marseilles; and treatment of general paralysis, introduced by Drs. B. Dujardin of Brussels and René Targlowa of Paris. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. F. Meeus, 21 Nervierstraat, Antwerp.

THE first congress of the German society for researches on the circulation was held at Cologne, under the presidency of Dr. H. E. Hering, on March 5th and 6th; it was attended by 150 members from all parts of Germany and representatives of eight foreign countries. The chief subjects for discussion were the problem of circulatory weakness, introduced by H. Eppinger of Freiburg, and the formation of normal and abnormal cardiac stimuli, introduced by J. Rihl of Prague.

THE third Polish Congress of Stomatology will be held at Cracow in May on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Chair and Institute of Stomatology.

DR. ALFRED DENKER, professor of medicine at Halle University, has been elected a corresponding member of the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

DR. CECIL MITCHEL ROLSTON, chief medical officer, has been appointed an official member of the Legislative Council of the Presidency of Dominica.

## 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.

### A FAECAL FISTULA PAD.

"TUBE" asks for suggestions for an appliance or pad to protect a faecal fistula. Although the discharge is very slight, it necessitates at present a change of the adhesive plaster and gauze pad about twice a week.

### RADICAL CURE OF HERPES GENITALIS.

DR. D. S. PUTTANNA (Vienna) asks for suggestions as regards the radical cure of herpes glans penis and preputialis. Local treatment relieves the condition temporarily, but fresh crops of herpes come and go for many months.

### CURE OF CHRONIC BLEPHARITIS.

"V. A. R." asks: Can a permanent cure be effected in a case of chronic blepharitis of fourteen years' standing in a girl aged 18? There is no error of refraction and the general nutrition is now satisfactory. The usual silver applications (nitrate and protargol) and mercury ointment give temporary improvement only. Are staphylococcal vaccines useful?

### PAROXYSMAL CORYZA.

"F. D. J." asks for advice in the treatment of a chronic and occasionally very acute mucous nasal discharge, which comes on at any time, but is often worse at night, preventing sleep for hours. The turbinate bones have been cauterized, the teeth dealt with, and an autogenous serum has been tried. Various sprays and douches have been employed without benefit. The antra are normal. Acute basal congestion often follows an

acute attack, with distressed breathing, as if of cardiac origin without rhonchi, but there is no valvular trouble. The catarrh became worse after staying at an hotel fifteen months ago, where a particularly virulent type of influenza seemed to be prevalent. The patient, a woman aged about 45, developed an acute attack of influenza after reaching home, with the asthmatic-like symptoms.

### INCOME TAX.

"W. E." inquires whether a booklet is published with special reference to income tax returns by medical men.

\* \* We are not acquainted with one, and can only suggest that our correspondent should prepare a statement setting out all the expenses which he considers may reasonably be regarded as having been incurred for professional purposes, and enclose a copy with his income tax return. We shall be pleased to deal with any specific question which may arise in the preparation of the statement or after its receipt by the inspector of taxes.

### Expenses of Illness.

"BEMOX" had an illness in 1927, and inquires as to what expenses he can deduct in computing his profits for that year.

\* \* The cost of the locumtenent, including expenditure on board, service, etc., when supplied, can be deducted as being incurred in the earning of the profits of the practice, and similarly with regard to any payments that may have been made for services rendered to his clients. But payments made—for example, to the nurse, radiologist, etc.—for personal services rendered to our correspondent are not proper subjects for deduction. Admittedly they were necessary to maintain him in a position to continue to earn an income, but it is clearly established that their personal nature takes them out of the allowable class of expenditure.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### NEPHROSTOMY.

MR. I. C. GRAHAM, F.R.C.S. Ed. (Bishopstoke, Hants), writes with reference to Mr. J. F. Dobson's explanation of the use of the term "nephrostomy" (*Journal*, April 7th, p. 618):

With all due deference to Mr. Dobson, I consider the term misapplied in the case in point. The term "nephrotomy" includes all necessary drainage after operation, with a view, however, to eventual closure. "Nephrostomy," on the other hand, means making a stoma or mouth—namely, a "permanent" opening. That Mr. Dobson does not intend the latter is obvious, as the first case mentioned in his article (March 24th, p. 486) under "nephrostomy alone" distinctly proves, for he says with evident satisfaction "the wound healed completely in a very short time." The term "nephrostomy" in such a case is obviously misleading. If this nomenclature is adopted we will soon be speaking of external urethrostomy and tracheostomy.

### SHOCK IN BLACK RACES.

DR. E. F. HOARE (Salford) agrees with Dr. Dickson (March 24th, p. 524) that the coloured races make good surgical but bad medical patients. He writes: My first experience "out East" was when a "nigger" fell down an empty ship's hold and landed on his back across the propeller shaft casing. Taken out as dead, he was placed under a gangway out of the sun. In a few moments he recovered, had a drink of water and half an onion, and after two hours' sleep was back at work again. Later on I saw native Egyptians operated on for stone in the bladder without an anaesthetic. After the dressings were applied they rolled off the table and kissed the operator's hand. In the war, with Indians and Chinese, the converse was illustrated: a very mild attack of dysentery or beri-beri killed them at once on no adequate medical grounds. Yet an Arab child with a torn-open thigh appeared almost indifferent to its injuries, and made an uninterrupted recovery.

### TOURS IN CANADA.

A NUMBER of special tours to Canada, designed to meet the needs of those who, like most doctors, must limit their holidays to three or four weeks, have been arranged for this summer by the Cunard and White Star lines in co-operation with the Canadian National Railways. One tour, which takes only twenty-three days, involves a journey of 6,600 miles, but permits a stay of a full week in Eastern Canada, while another, a tour of six weeks, gives four weeks in Canada, permitting the crossing and recrossing of the continent by different routes, with three days in the Jasper National Park in the Rocky Mountains, two days on the Great Lakes, and a 500-mile steamer trip from Vancouver on the Pacific coast. Other tours vary in duration between these limits, some having official escorts attached to shoulder all travel responsibilities. The organizers have aimed at keeping costs as low as possible.

### VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 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 124.