

crypts. Sir James Dundas-Grant also referred to thymol water as a useful prophylactic gargle, and recommended the clearing away of caseous masses filling the tonsillar crypts by means of a fine dental syringe, with the point bent at a right angle, charged with hydrogen peroxide (equal parts of the ten volume solution and warm water).

PAROXYSMAL CORYZA.

"W. M. M.," in reply to "F. D. J.'s" question about the treatment of paroxysmal mucous nasal discharge, suggests the administration of calcium and parathyroid extract, or thyroid extract.

Dr. LINDLEY SEWELL (Manchester) offers the following recommendations: (1) A fruit and vegetable diet, including milk, eggs, meat, and fowl. (2) Taking some calcium preparation for a considerable time and with regularity. (3) Painting the middle turbinal and middle meatal region of the nose with 3 per cent. silver nitrate solution once a week for five or six times. (4) A change of residence to some seaside place, such as Weston-super-Mare or Grange, where mudflats are left at low tide. (5) A careful search for any possible source of irritation, such as fowls, feather beds or pillows, dogs, cats, new paint.

INCOME TAX.

Replacement of Car and Instruments, etc.

"W. T. C." bought a Morris Cowley car in 1923 for £250 and in 1927 sold it for £40, buying a Morris Oxford car for £215. What claims should he make, and what is the position with regard to expenditure on books and instruments?

* * As regards the car he should claim obsolescence allowance, as a professional expense of the year 1927, as follows: £180 (or rather, the exact cost in 1927 of a Morris Cowley car of similar type to the one replaced) less £40, say £140; also depreciation allowance for 1927-28, £215 at 15 per cent. = £32. The position with regard to books and instruments is that expenditure on their replacement is admissible, but the cost of improvement, as compared with the original value of the old article, must be excluded. There is the further difficulty that until the old instrument or book is definitely "scrapped" the new one represents an addition and not a renewal; if the former is useless it is obviously advisable from the income tax standpoint to get rid of it altogether, and thereby avoid a possible objection to the claim.

Motor Car Transaction.

"G. W. M." bought an 11-h.p. car in 1922 for £330 and sold it in January, 1927, for £65, when he bought a shop-soiled 14-h.p. car for £440. In the last two years he has had 15 per cent. on £40 depreciation allowance for the old car—say £12 in all.

* * Obsolescence allowance, £330-£65 = £12 = £253, as an expense of the year 1927. Depreciation allowance for 1927-28, 15 per cent. on £410 = £66.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

LECTURERS ON SOCIAL HYGIENE.

Dr. A. H. HARKNESS (honorary medical secretary, British Social Hygiene Council) writes: Owing to the numerous calls the British Social Hygiene Council is in need of the services of additional medical men: (1) Those who would be willing to leave London and to undertake from three to ten days' lecturing with public health films in the provinces; (2) those with experience in popular speaking willing to address general industrial audiences on problems of social hygiene in London and the Home Counties area. Full particulars are given in an advertisement in this week's issue.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA.

Dr. J. W. DUNCAN (Birmingham) refers to Dr. D. Hennessy's letter on the treatment of pneumonia by polyvalent antistreptococcal serum (March 31st, p. 572), and reports six cases, three of which were treated with antistreptococcal serum and vaccine and recovered, while the three other patients died. He adds that there is nothing sensational in the use of the serum; the temperature, as a rule, does not fall, but there is no crash at the crisis. His point is that injections of serum, followed by small doses of vaccines, seem to be very beneficial in these cases.

THE PULPLESS TOOTH.

Mr. A. P. BERTWISTLE writes: I thank you for your references (at p. 637 of the *Journal*) to my paper on "The role of dead and infected teeth in autogenous infections." There are, however, two inaccuracies. Sir William Willcox does not specify pulpless teeth, but states that teeth are the cause of 70 per cent. of the rheumatic diseases. I stated that the most important sign of infection was pain on clenching the jaws and on percussion, not "on eating."

STARTING POINTS FOR A TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN.

Dr. GORDON TIPPETT (London, S.E.) suggests that as a preliminary to a general campaign to stamp out tuberculosis it is necessary to determine the following points: Is food infection by tubercle bacilli harmful, and, if so, why is it not prevented? Does not exposure of food lead to contamination by human tubercle bacilli? Is any case ever too early for treatment? Some further

test (he says) is required to prove definitely the presence of living tubercle bacilli in the body. Some bacteriological procedure is necessary so as to make it clear whether the treatment has been successful or otherwise, since physical examination may be misleading. Dr. Tippet considers that such a criterion of cure is essential, because otherwise it is impossible to be sure that any form of treatment is effective. He adds that the examination of sputum for tubercle bacilli should only be undertaken by a bacteriologist, who should be a fully qualified medical practitioner, and should report on conditions other than the mere presence or absence of these bacilli.

SURVIVAL OF QUADRUPLETS.

Dr. KENNETH J. FRANKLIN (Pharmacological Laboratory, Oxford) writes: The following extract from Henley Register (Diocesan Transcripts) has been shown to me by Mr. C. R. Oldham of Oriel College, and, in view of the rarity of survival of quadruplets, I am sending it on to you. It may also suggest to the curious a possible source of further information on such subjects. The entry in the register is:

"Cath. Fullocks, aged 36, died in childbed, with four children born alive, bur. 16 Feb. 1799."

FIVE GENERATIONS ATTENDED BY ONE DOCTOR.

Dr. L. J. HOOD (Melbourne, Australia) asks whether any other medical practitioner has had what he considers the unique experience of attending five generations in the one family. Dr. Hood writes: The great-great-grandmother is now aged 90, and has been a patient of mine for nine years. Her married daughter and granddaughter have both been under my care for some years. The great-granddaughter was married last year, and is now the mother of a bonny boy, both of whom I attended.

THE GORILLA AT HOME.

LIEUT.-COLONEL CLAYTON LANE, I.M.S. (ret.), referring to "Notes on the gorilla," a recent article in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* by Dr. Neville A. Dyce Sharp, West African Medical Service, writes: "The varied opportunities for adding to knowledge in unexpected ways which fall to officers in our medical services abroad is illustrated from West Africa. In the Mamfe division of the Cameroons the gorilla is hunted and eaten by man, and attacks man at sight. Not a few hunters owe their lives merely to the remote position of the gorilla's thumbs, so that from his uncertain grip a man may wriggle. Such unfortunate manners make it no light task to observe the creature's habits, but Dyce Sharp's information and observations warrant the following statements regarding gorillas and chimpanzees. In that locality the chimpanzee is a timid, monogamous, widely distributed herd animal, both sexes making small untidy beds, like storks' nests, 30 ft. to 50 ft. up in the trees. The gorilla is a fierce, polygamous, family animal, living on steep terraces 1,200 ft. to 5,000 ft. above sea-level, and together with his four to six wives and their children, and perhaps an elder son not yet thrust out to fend for himself, patrolling an area of twenty to forty square miles. The head of the family is not arboreal, but makes for himself, of stout bent saplings, branches, twigs, and leaves, a luxurious bed on the ground, perhaps 9 ft. across and 12 in. to 18 in. deep, as nearly resembling a spring mattress as the materials permit. It is said by the natives that the 'old man' allots to each wife her own tree fork, where she builds, as he does from material within arm's reach, a bed 3 ft. or 4 ft. in diameter. Dyce Sharp has repeatedly verified the fact that the head of the family, reclining at ease against the tree trunk adjacent to which his bed is built, can watch the arboreal nest of every wife. No bed is used for more than one night. The gorilla, though fond of grubs and caterpillars, is essentially a vegetarian, eating mainly the growing points and stems of a sugarcane-like scitamin, and that in prodigious quantity, as will be clear from the estimate that the amount of undigested faecal residue beside, but not on, the bed of a single male was estimated at 25 lb. to 30 lb. It is interesting to speculate on the feelings of a human being who daily lost the equivalent of 2 stone between bed and breakfast. The day's life, particularly for the head of the family, must be little else than a strenuous search for food, the making of a bed and of a toilet, and the perpetuation of the species. But this routine may be abruptly terminated by the violent irruption of a stranger—some new-grown male who purposes, through a grim and bloody fight, to appropriate the harem and feeding grounds of the gorilla in possession."

NEW LIGHTING LAWS FOR MOTORISTS.

For the convenience of motor owners and drivers the Automobile Association is issuing a booklet epitomizing the various changes in the law relating to lights on vehicles. In addition to the Road Transport Lighting Act, which comes into operation on April 22nd, there are certain changes which are to be the subject of regulations made under that Act, and immediately these regulations are issued the A. A. booklet will be available, free of charge, to any motorist on application by postcard to the Secretary, Automobile Association, Fanum House, New Coventry Street, W.1.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 53, 56, 57, 58, and 59 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 54 and 55. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 136.