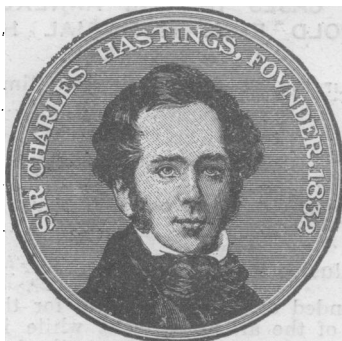


The
British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



Medical Lib

WITH SUPPLEMENT.

No. 3563.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1929.

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Helped by an endowment fund, an Intermediate Hospital of 30 beds (later to be increased to 50 beds) is now open for suitable general surgical cases at 17, Park Lane, London, W.1. The fees for a room cost now only two guineas a week, interest in the scheme having made possible a further reduction since it was started.

(The whole scheme is an attempt to help people unable to pay ordinary full surgical expenses, and yet at the same time to avoid any semblance of a charity which would be distasteful to such.)

All further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary or Matron at 17, Park Lane.

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A TYPICAL SCALE OF REDUCED FEES FOR SURGICAL CASES IN THE ANNEXE CLINIC OF THE HAROLD FINK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AT 17, PARK LANE.

Hospital Fees, including Nursing, 2 guineas a week (limited to an average stay of 3 weeks)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£6 6 0
Dressings, Theatre Fees, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1 0
Assistant Surgeon at operation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 4 0
Anæsthetic Fee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 4 0
Surgical Fees for Major Operation (from one-fifth usual charges, according to patient's means)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(say)	21 0 0
(From Thirty-five guineas inclusive fee)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£36 15 0

N.B.—The patient must be recommended as a suitable case for these reduced fees by their own Medical Attendant, who will take charge of the after-treatment while in hospital, and be paid direct by the patient his usual fees for such attendance in addition to the fee as Anæsthetist or Assistant at operation.

When the patient's doctor wishes to arrange a preliminary consultation with the Surgeon-in-Chief (with a view, for example, to a Bismuth Meal, Cystoscopic or X-ray Examination, etc.), all that is necessary is to telephone either the Secretary or Matron, and an appointment will be made. (Proportionately reduced nominal fees only charged therefor.)

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All rooms are of course separate, and hold one patient only, there being no wards.

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April 5th, 1929, reduced to the amount of his earnings for that year—for example, three-fourths of the 1928 profits *plus* the "assistant" earnings for the last three months—but is liable, on the other hand, to have the assessment for the year to April 5th, 1928, adjusted, if the Revenue desire it, to the amount of the earnings for that year. As regards 1929-30, he will apparently have ceased his connexion with the practice, and will not be liable to an assessment for proceeds thereof—cash receipts coming to hand after December 31st, 1928, represent the harvesting of income the liability for which has been accounted for as it was being earned.

Expenses of Research incurred by Lecturer.

"CH.M." holds a University appointment; the regulations provide that he "shall be expected to engage in higher study and research." The research programme was apparently discussed with the Dean of the Faculty, and definite instructions were given by him as to the work to be done and places to be visited for that purpose. "Ch.M." incurred expenses amounting to £54 in carrying out those instructions, and has had the deduction of that amount from his assessable emoluments refused after a personal appeal to the General Commissioners.

* * In our opinion this is a borderline case, and we are not clear that "Ch.M.'s" claim is well founded in law, especially as it is not shown that the Dean has the legal right of prescribing precisely what work is to be done without the volition of the lecturer. Expenses wholly, exclusively, and necessarily incurred in fulfilling the condition attached to the appointment would be allowable, but other purposes are also served—which makes the "exclusively" an awkward stipulation—and it is possible that "Ch.M." might have adopted some less expensive means of research. The technical points mentioned by "Ch.M." we do not regard as of much moment; an appeal cannot be made to the Special Commissioners, as that body is alternative to the General Commissioners, and not a superior tribunal, and the only steps "Ch.M." can take now for the year in question is by way of appeal to the High Court on the point of law. He might be well advised to protect his right to do so by paying one guinea to the Clerk to the Commissioners with a request for a statement of the case. When he receives the case he can better decide whether it will be worth his while to incur further expense in the matter.

Motor Expenses Exceed Allowance.

"H. A. C." has to have a car for use in connexion with his work as district tuberculosis officer. He receives an allowance at the rate of 5d. per mile, but, owing in the main to rather frequent renewals of his car, his actual expenses, including depreciation, loss on exchange, etc., have been in excess of the amount so calculated. Can he claim to deduct that excess for income tax purposes?

* * He will have to prove that the excess was expended out of his salary wholly, exclusively, and necessarily in the performance of his duties. In effect this implies that the 5d. per mile allowance is inadequate; the special and apparently rather unfortunate circumstances of his case are difficult to introduce in view of the word "necessarily," and we cannot but consider his chance of success in proving that inadequacy to be somewhat slight.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONGRESS IN ZÜRICH.

DR. E. W. HOPE and DR. T. N. KELYNACK (honorary secretaries, Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C.1) write: The preliminary programme for the 1929 Zürich Conference of the Royal Institute of Public Health, May 15th to 20th, has now been issued and a copy can be forwarded on request. We are assured of the most cordial welcome by the Swiss National Government, the authorities of the canton, city, and the University of Zürich, and by the leaders of the medical school of Zürich. Invitations have also been received to visit various health stations in Switzerland. The Government gives a concession of 50 per cent. on the State railway; free transportation will be provided on the Rhaetian Railway (Chur to Davos) and on the railways Chur to Arosa, Sierre to Montana, and Aigle to Leysin. The local authorities at each of these well-known centres are most anxious to welcome as many members of the congress as possible. We are further assured by the Czechoslovak Minister, Mr. Jan Masaryk, of a hospitable reception for those who may find time after the congress to extend their journey to the two great Czechoslovak spas of Carlsbad and Marienbad. In order to complete arrangements for the comfort of members of the congress desiring to participate in the extensions, it is essential that we should know immediately which of the visits members will desire to take. Particulars regarding the extensions and the routes to be traversed, together with information as to the expenses to members of the congress, will be forwarded on application; non-members may accompany members, but will not be able to enjoy all the special privileges. The inclusive cost of the visit

to the congress at Zürich will range from £10 4s. 6d. for the short sea route, second-class travel on the Continent and hotel accommodation, to £12 12s. 6d. for first-class travel throughout and hotel accommodation. Full particulars regarding the different extended journeys available after the conference, together with a list of the various hotels in Zürich, are available on demand, and it is earnestly requested that all who propose to attend the conference will communicate with us as soon as possible.

POISONING FROM EXHAUST FUMES.

"M.D., B.S." (London, W.1) writes: The recent fatal accident that arose from the driver of a public motor vehicle being momentarily overcome by drowsiness makes one wonder what precautions are taken, and what authority, if any, is responsible for their enforcement, to protect drivers, and through them, their passengers and other road users, from conditions leading to such accidents. The average doctor is a motorist of necessity, and many of us know only too well how almost hypnotic may be the effect of long driving on a tired brain and how easy it is to be overcome by momentary sleep, even in an open car with the wind blowing freely round the screen. If engine fumes are added, how intensely might this drowsiness be increased! In some motor buses, as I can personally testify, engine fumes may be markedly noticeable even to a passenger seated by an open window. How much more potent must they be in an ill-ventilated cabin, where the engine "breather" may be situated immediately below the driver's feet! Our factories and workshops are subject to strict inspection for the sake of the health of the employees. Is there any inspection of the conditions under which a bus driver works—conditions which may concern not only his own health, but also the safety of his passengers and other road users? If so, why does one hear, at least in some provincial districts, of men driving for three and four consecutive "long days," with only four hours' sleep between? Why does one hear of these men staggering from their driving cabins and clinging to some support at the roadside while they breathe in fresh air to relieve the uncontrollable drowsiness and giddiness which attacks them, and of others who have to "go sick" with gastro-intestinal attacks and other symptoms referable to exhaust gas poisoning? Perhaps some readers of the *Journal* may be able to mention cases they have treated of exhaust gas poisoning in public vehicle drivers.

PAINFUL SHOULDER.

"PODAGRA," continuing this discussion, which began with Mr. P. B. Roth's letter on December 22nd, 1928 (p. 1156), writes: Being one of the many elderly fellow-sufferers, I quite agree with "T. F." (March 16th, p. 534) as to the improbability of it being due to synovitis, there being no obvious signs of inflammation in the shoulder-joint. I could not raise my elbow, which was trying this side of the Atlantic; as to getting my hand into my trousers pocket, that I must admit has always been an inherent difficulty, for I keep my small change there. I also have the pain and occasional tenderness over the insertion of the deltoid, but it should be remembered that the insertions of the *teres major*, *latissimus dorsi*, and *pectoralis major* are in the bicipital groove, which is immediately above and beneath the deltoid. The action of this group of muscles is to rotate the humerus inwards and bring it to the side; now if, owing to the sudden contraction of this group of muscles, any of the fibres are torn, together with their sensory nerve endings (muscle spindles), a traumatic fibrositis is set up, similar to lumbago. The treatment I am undergoing, after subjecting the painful area to radiant heat, is forcible extension, advocated by Romer years ago. After half a dozen sittings my movement has been considerably increased and the pain lessened.

ANAESTHESIA FOR COLLES'S FRACTURE.

DR. WILLIAM HAIG (Crieff, Perthshire) writes: In his letter in the *Journal* of April 13th (p. 705) Mr. C. H. Fagge says "it must, however, be admitted that in some cases of Colles's fracture in elderly and infirm women a bad result is preferable to the risk which a general anaesthetic would entail." I wonder if he has considered the use of "twilight sleep" as a substitute for the general anaesthetic. In two such cases recently—both women over 70—I injected a sterile solution of tabloid hyoscine compound B and left to continue my visits elsewhere; when I returned, on each occasion within a couple of hours, I found the patient sufficiently anaesthetized and relaxed to enable me to set the fracture satisfactorily.

CAUTION.

ON April 3rd, 1926 (p. 640), and again on August 27th, 1927 (p. 372), the *British Medical Journal* cautioned readers against begging letters from a Mrs. E. M. Etheridge. From recent information received it appears that Mrs. Etheridge is continuing to write to members of the medical profession, and they are strongly advised to forward such begging letters to the secretary of the Charity Organization Society, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.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 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, and 54 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 151.



THE injurious action of caffeine, to which the ailing, reconvalescents and those in good health become liable by the habitual or excessive consumption of coffee and tea, is causing an increased interest in the medical world. There is already a comprehensive literature dealing with this subject; in many cases it absolutely bans the consumption of beverages containing caffeine.

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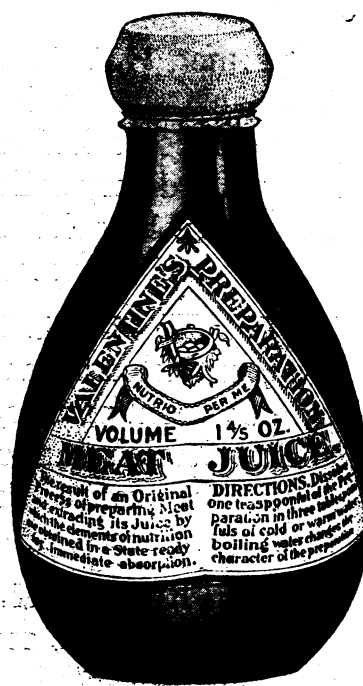


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