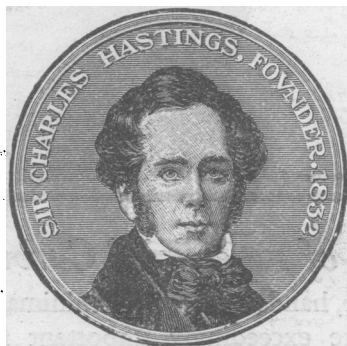


# The British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



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No. 3587.

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1929.

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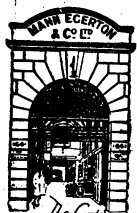
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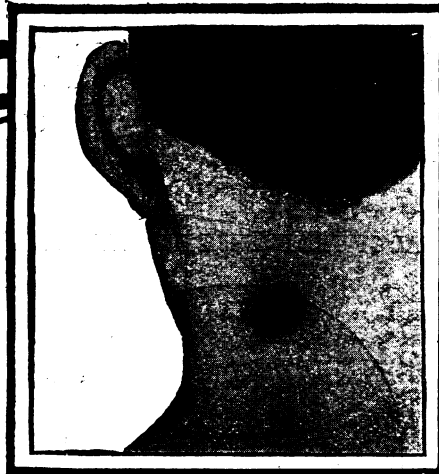
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especially those of the face, hands and neck, a minimal scar and good function of the involved areas are exceedingly important factors. In these cases, hygroscopic Antiphlogistine offers the physician a therapeutic agent which frequently yields optimum results. In combating a possible infection by the endermic route, the physician will invariably gain the gratitude of the patient, particularly in these cases where, for cosmetic reasons, large incisions are not desirable.

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already to some extent becoming better, and he drew attention to the provisions of the Local Government Act, which require persons appointed as health visitors to be qualified in accordance with the Ministry's regulations. Finally, he suggested that it might be useful if a survey were made of the actual conditions of service in all parts of the country, and the deputation unanimously endorsed this proposal.

DR. D. E. FINDLAY of Gloucester has been made a justice of the peace for the city of Gloucester.

A REPORT on rural water supplies has been issued by the Ministry of Health; it urges the importance of devoting more attention to improving public wells, pumps, springs, and rain-water tanks in places where piped supplies cannot be installed. Recommendations are made with reference to the adequate storage of rain water, and it is added that local authorities require more powers than they at present possess, including the right to charge for water supplies provided by them. Although there has been substantial progress in recent years, there is still much to be done before conditions can be considered generally satisfactory.

THE April issue of the *Journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges* appears in two parts: the first includes a report on applications for matriculation in schools of medicine of the United States and the Dominion of Canada in 1928-29; notes on pre-medical education; on arts-medical courses; on four years' experience of the co-operative plan in medical education; on impressiveness in medical teaching; and on the status of functional pathology in the medical curriculum. The second part gives a list of fellowships and scholarships offered by the medical schools of the United States and Canada. This quarterly periodical is published at 25, East Washington Street, Chicago, at 2 dollars a year; single copies 75 cents.

THE fourth congress of French-speaking psychoanalysts will be held in Paris under the presidency of Dr. A. Borel on June 3rd.

THE tenth annual international neurological congress will be held at La Salpêtrière, Paris, on June 4th and 5th, when the following subjects will be discussed: torsion spasms, introduced by Wimmer of Copenhagen; spasmodic torticollis, introduced by Barré of Strasbourg; and the surgery of the sympathetic, introduced by R. Leriche and R. Fontaine of Strasbourg. An address will also be delivered on malariotherapy by Professor Wagner-Jauregg of Vienna.

## 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* 9361, 9362, 9363, and 9364 (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, Medisecra Westcent, London.

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone 24361 Edinburgh).

### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

#### SODIUM BARBITONE.

DR. F. P. STURM (Leigh, Lancs) writes: Can any reader tell me whether sodium barbitone remains stable in aqueous solution?

#### AFTER-EFFECTS OF "TWILIGHT SLEEP."

DR. FRANK E. KINGSTON (Leysin, Switzerland) writes: It would be interesting to know if the psychopathologists have anything to say on the subject of "twilight sleep." They assert, I believe, that some psychoneuroses may be traced to the deliberate forgetting of an unpleasant experience, which leads one to question whether the amnesia produced in a successful morphine-hyoscine narcosis is entirely free from undesirable after-effects.

#### AXILLARY HYPERIDROSIS.

DR. HESTER M. HENDERSON (Tunbridge Wells) writes: A severe case of axillary hyperidrosis was cleared up, after four or five doses, by a half-teaspoonful (ordinary breakfast spoon) of bicarbonate of soda in 2 oz. of water each night. When any slight return of the trouble comes (with extra exercise or hot weather), one dose keeps it down. A cotton vest with sleeves is worn next the skin, summer and winter: this can be boiled when washed. This very simple treatment has turned a miserable state into an easily controlled one. When the trouble is very severe a hot soda bath (handful of ordinary washing soda) distinctly helps.

#### INCOME TAX.

##### Appointment; Car Allowance.

"M. F. G. M." uses his own car for visiting various institutions under the control of the local authority for whom he acts. "The authority takes full responsibility for the maintenance of the car." In May, 1928, he sold his former car for £55 and bought his present car for £260. There is partial private use. Can he claim anything for depreciation?

\* \* If it is clear that the payments made by the authority do not include anything for the depreciation of the car there is no reason why a claim should not be made. We suggest that "M. F. G. M." should claim, for 1929-30, 20 per cent. of £260—that is, £52—as reduced by the proportion of private use. If he uses the car, as estimated on a mileage basis, three-quarters as to professional and one-quarter as to private purposes, his net allowance for 1929-30 would be £52—£13=£39.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### PAROXYSMAL TACHYCARDIA.

DR. ROBERT A. WELSH (Felton, Northumberland) writes with reference to the note by Dr. W. F. Lloyd in the *Journal* of May 11th (p. 890): The term "paroxysmal tachycardia" was not used when I began medicine thirty years ago, but soon after commencing practice I had under my care a middle-aged man who suffered from such attacks; I did not know anything of its pathology, nor could I do anything for it, but he came in one day to tell me he had himself found a cure, which was exactly what Dr. Lloyd describes. This procedure always checked it, but he still got his attacks. I may say he had had acute rheumatism in early life, and died eventually of uraemia. I have only had one other case of this condition, and the patient, an elderly man, gets almost instant relief in the same way. "*Nullum est jam dictum, quid non dictum sit prius.*"

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

"Medical Investigator of Maternal Mortality and Medical Officer to Ante-natal Clinic" writes: I have read the paper of Sir Henry Simson on maternal mortality (May 11th, p. 869) with interest, and would draw attention to the details of the second case he cites. Would he support the compulsory internment in hospital of pregnant women found suffering from some abnormality? What means would he suggest for dealing with the mentality of the pregnant woman with regard to the medical advice she has received? Should the approved society refuse to pay maternity benefit in cases where this advice has been disregarded, thus rendering the woman poorer as well as sick?

#### TITLES AND SUBJECTS.

SHORT headings are usually, but not always, best; now and then an author or an editor does well to ignore the adage about brevity and wit. A case in point is a note written by an operating room orderly, which appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for April 20th under the caption, "Keeping the drawstrings on surgeons' operating trousers from sneaking back into the hem." This fulfils one of Samuel Butler's definitions: "A good title should aim at making what follows as far as possible superfluous to those who know anything of the subject."

#### MEDICAL GOLF.

THE Spring Knock-out Tournament of the Medical Golfing Society was won by Sir Kenneth Goadby, the runner-up being Mr. E. N. Plummer. The other semi-finalists were Dr. A. Hope Gosse and Dr. Ulysses Williams. The summer meeting of the society will be held on June 20th at Watton Heath, and the Canny Ryall Challenge Cup for mixed foursomes (with the Ladies' M.G.S.) will be played for at Northwood on June 27th.

#### ASTHMA RESEARCH COUNCIL.

WE are informed by Surgeon Rear-Admiral T. T. Jeans, R.N.(ret.), that he has resigned his appointment with the Asthma Research Council.

#### IRON SUCCINATE.

WILL the contributor of a note on the use of iron succinate (posted on May 13th) be so good as to communicate his name and address?

#### 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, 46, 47, 50, 51, and 52 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 48 and 49.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement column appears in the *Supplement* at page 199.



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.

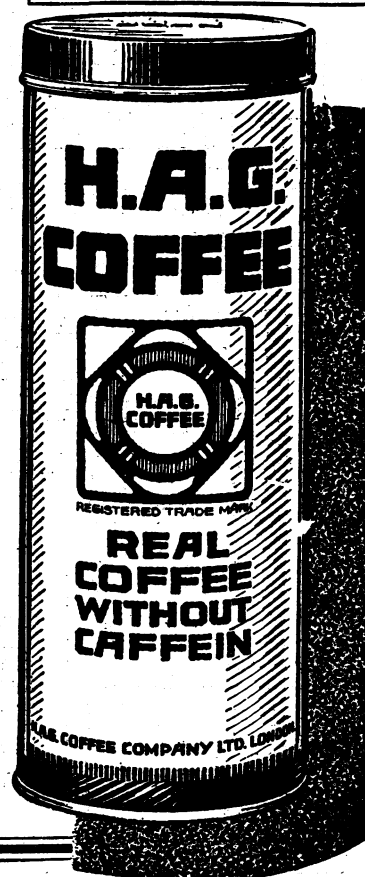
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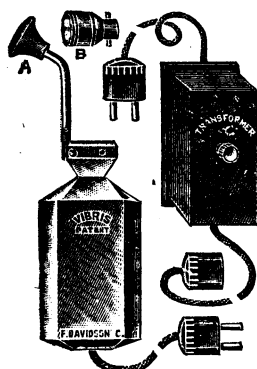
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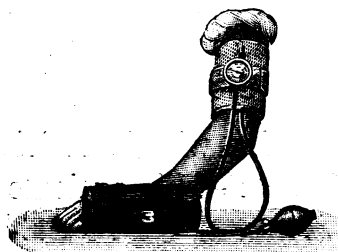
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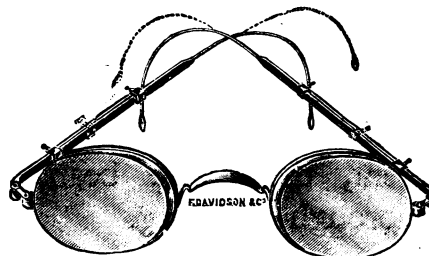
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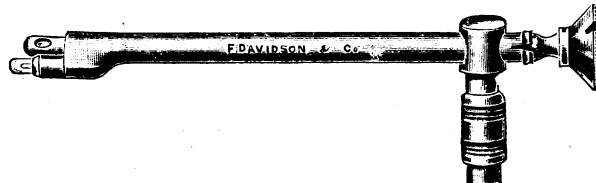
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