

THE fifth international congress of physiotherapy will be held at Liège from September 4th to 8th, 1930.

AN international congress of neurology will be held at Bern in August and September, when the chief subjects for discussion will be muscular tonus, diagnosis and treatment of cerebral tumours, and injuries and infections of the nervous system.

DR. HASSELBACH of Copenhagen, whose son died of leukaemia at the age of 15, has given a sum of 700,000 kronen, the interest on which is to help Danish practitioners in researches on leukaemia.

THE issue of *Schweizerische medizinische Wochenschrift* for December 7th is devoted to the proceedings of the sixteenth congress of the Swiss Surgical Society held at Zug on July 25th and 26th.

DR. CHARLES NICOLLE, director of the Pasteur Institute at Tunis, has been elected member of the Académie des Sciences.

## 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).

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

### TREATMENT OF PRURITUS VULVAE.

"R. S." writes: I have a patient, aged 27, who suffers from intolerable pruritus vulvae, which has now lasted for several years. The irritation commences on the inner side of the left labium majus, and the patient can put her finger exactly on the spot. The irritation then extends into the vagina, until the patient, almost hysterical, douches the vagina with plain hot water, which gives relief for some hours. Vaginal, urinary, and rectal examinations are all negative. The patient has been under a prominent gynaecologist, who dilated and curetted, and also tried various treatments for months, but quite unsuccessfully. I have used every conceivable form of remedy I can imagine; bromides, calcium, thyroid, suppositories, douches, ointments, lotions, etc. If any readers can give me any suggestion for treatment which they have found useful I shall be much obliged.

### INSULIN FOR SENILE DIABETICS.

"DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER" would like to hear of some simple plan for giving insulin in very small doses to parish patients about 80 years old. They suffer from senile diabetes of a type which cannot quite be controlled by diet alone, and they are unable or unwilling to go to institutions to have their blood sugar determined.

### WINTER MOTORING.

"H. G." (Blackpool) writes: With reference to your article "Winter Motoring" in the *Journal* of December 7th (p. 1061), concerning antifreezing media of glycerin and water, I should be glad to know if this method has any harmful effects in any respect on the engine. Also, when desiring to finish with this mixture, should one simply drain the radiator or refill with water?

\* \* \* Our Motoring Correspondent writes: If the recommended proportions of glycerin and water are adhered to, the mixture will have no harmful effects on the engine or the water-circulating system. From this it follows that no special attention will be necessary as soon as the need for the mixture is over, when it can be drained and replaced by water.

### INCOME TAX.

#### Change in Nature of Appointment.

"D. N. P." qualified in April, 1928, and during the year ending April 5th, 1929, his total income was £100. Since February 19th, 1929, he has held a resident post at a hospital at a salary of £300 per annum. What is his liability to tax for 1928-29 and 1929-30?

\* \* \* 1928-29: No liability, but "D. N. P." must, of course, make a statement of his total income in due form, if called upon to do so. 1929-30: £300 less £135 = £165 at 2s. in the £—that is, £16 10s.; this assumes that he cannot claim relief in respect of life assurance, dependent relative, or marriage, and that he has no other income than the salary of £300.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### GLUCOSE IN ASTHMA.

DR. H. N. MUKHERJEE (Biochemical Department, Carmichael Medical College, Calcutta) writes: With reference to Dr. Arthur F. Hurst's letter on "Glucose in the treatment of asthma" (*Journal*, November 16th, 1929, p. 930), may I draw attention to the fact that Dr. B. C. Roy and myself reported a condition of hypoglycaemia and acidosis (decrease in the alkali reserve) in asthma as early as 1923 (*Calcutta Medical Journal*, March, 1923, p. 12). For some years we have been using glucose together with sodium bicarbonate in the treatment of asthma, often with very good results. I may also add that Dr. W. Langdon Brown, in his opening paper on the treatment of asthma at the British Medical Association Annual Meeting held at Bath in 1925, referred to our work (*British Medical Journal*, August 29th, 1925, p. 368).

### MR. FISHER'S STUDY OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

LIEUT. COLONEL S. P. JAMES, I.M.S. (ret.), writes: On the recommendation contained in the review of *Our New Religion*, by the Right Hon. H. A. L. Fisher, which appeared in the *Journal* of December 7th, 1929 (p. 1059), I bought the book and sent it to a friend as a Christmas gift. My friend tells me that he does not agree with the reviewer's opinion that the book is "a very brilliant piece of work," for the following reasons: (1) Mr. Fisher has omitted to quote literature which conflicts with the kind of history which he desires to record. For example, he has omitted from his list of "primary authorities" Mrs. Eddy's well-known book *Miscellany*, in which, on page 308, there is a detailed correction of the information contained in the article in *McClure's Magazine*, from which Mr. Fisher has evidently drawn most of his historical account. (2) Mr. Fisher is guilty of misquotation, as, for example, on page 214 of his book, where he quotes from Mrs. Eddy's chapter on prayer in *Science and Health*. In the last line of this extract from that book he quotes her as saying, "let our words attest our sincerity," whereas what is actually printed on page 15 of *Science and Health* is "let our lives attest our sincerity." My friend points out that there is an important difference between these two pieces of advice which Mr. Fisher has apparently failed to notice. I have been at some pains to consult the references mentioned, and have ascertained that my friend's statements are correct.

### ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS IN COAL MINES.

DR. N. PINES (London, E.), in the course of a letter discussing the paper by Drs. D. Elliot Dickson and W. Arnott Dickson on arterio-sclerosis in coal miners (December 14th, 1929, p. 1103), writes:—Criticism may be directed to the following points: (1) the complete absence of ophthalmoscopic examination; (2) the suggestion that arterial thickening felt by palpation is due to calcareous degeneration. *In vivo* calcium is deposited in a semiliquid or colloid form, and therefore cannot be felt by palpation. One can feel the thickened or contracted arterial wall, but not the deposited calcium. May I suggest that the cause of vascular degeneration in miners is probably fine coal-dust, which is inhaled in large quantities by underground workers.

### DISCLAIMER.

DR. A. T. TODD (Bristol) writes: I should like it to be known that I had no knowledge of or participation (active or passive) in the notices of our work on the treatment of cancer which have just appeared in the lay press.

### 1930 MOTOR LICENCES.

To assist motorists in connexion with the renewal of car and motorcycle licences for the new year, the Automobile Association has issued a booklet, entitled *Your Motor Tax at a Glance*, which shows the various amounts due for licences, according to horsepower, either for the year or shorter periods. Information is also given concerning rebates obtainable in respect of old cars, refunds for surrendered licences, and the necessary procedure for renewing licences. It is important to bear in mind that the authorities grant fourteen days' grace for the renewal of licences, and that vehicles used during this period of grace become liable to taxation. Copies of the booklet may be obtained on application, by postcard, to the secretary of the A.A., Faunum House, New Coventry Street, W.1, or to any of the area offices.

### 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, 54, 55, and 56 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 7.