

## MIDGE BITES.

"PERPLEXED" asks for information about any really reliable and practical prophylactic against midge bites. His wife is unable to go out of doors in the country in summer-time without suffering from immediate, and sometimes more serious remote, distress from the bite of these pests. They appear to single her out for attack and to have no difficulty in penetrating ordinary female attire.

## FLEA INFESTATION.

"E. M." writes: I advise "Pulex" to sprinkle chlorinated lime freely on the floor, and after twenty-four hours have it washed, thus causing the lime to sink into the timber and cracks.

Dr. F. S. D. HOGG (Rickmansworth) writes: I have known scrubbing floors and cracks between wainscots and floors with a strong solution of potassium permanganate to be very effective. The permanganate, of course, stains the boards.

## TREATMENT OF PRURITUS ANI.

"CERONS" writes: Is a cure yet known for pruritus ani, a troublesome complaint which has now been worrying me for the past thirty years, on and off? I have tried numerous ointments and lotions, but all with no effect. The trouble arises from the semi-fluid discharge from the rectum coming into contact with the perianal skin and causing intolerable itching. A curious circumstance is that it only comes on when I am in bed and asleep, and this perhaps twice or thrice in the night.

## INCOME TAX.

## Theft of Instruments.

"G. B." explains that he has had the misfortune to lose his cases and instruments by theft. The inspector of taxes states that he cannot allow the full cost of replacement as a professional expense, but offers to allow £10 "as representing the normal annual cost of replacement."

\* \* We are of opinion that the full amount should be allowed. Apart from the obvious unfairness of refusing such an allowance, the cost of replacement of apparatus is, to the best of our knowledge, always allowed in such circumstances. If the local inspector is unable to allow the amount, we suggest that "G. B." should place the full facts before the Secretary, Inland Revenue, Somerset House, W.C.2, and ask that the allowance may be given to cover the entire cost of replacement—if not as a matter of law, at least as a matter of concession.

## Purchase of Apparatus.

"J. G. H. S." asks whether he is entitled to a rebate for the purchase of apparatus used in his practice.

\* \* Nothing can be claimed for the original outlay for providing the apparatus; that represents capital expenditure. But the amounts expended from time to time on the repair and replacement of the apparatus are admissible.

## Residence; Lease of Flat.

"W. P." has come to this country for a period not exceeding six months. He has had no residential relations with the United Kingdom in the past. He is taking over the lease of an unfurnished flat for eight months from midsummer of this year, but will, of course, be leaving before the lease expires—in fact, in October next. Do these circumstances involve him in liability to British income tax as an occasional resident here.

\* \* It has to be borne in mind that when a person has a residence here which is available for his occupation, normally liability attaches to him as a resident in the United Kingdom. We are not aware of any case on all fours with that quoted above, but a good deal would seem to turn on what is done with the flat during the four months to the end of February, 1931. If "W. P." sublets the flat for that period, so that it becomes unavailable for his own residence, we consider that he would not become liable as a British resident, but the result might very well be otherwise if, during that time, he retains his rights of occupation while the flat is used by his family or friends.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

## DANISH TREATMENT OF ITCH.

WE have received the following communication from Dr. W. H. MARTINDALE with reference to the correspondence under the above heading: In Dr. Alexander Cannon's letter (May 24th, p. 985) regarding the making of the polysulphide solution, which is a step in producing the ointment used in this treatment, reference is made to a communication from Dr. T. Douglas Ross in the *Journal* of February 15th (p. 320). Dr. Ross had difficulty in effecting solution, using 1 kilogram of 50 per cent. caustic potash, as originally mentioned by Dr. Cannon on January 25th (p. 148). I have made the solution, and the essence of the matter seems to be that 1 kilogram of 50 per cent. caustic potash

solution is not enough for 1 kilogram of sulphur—in fact, I am inclined to think that the 1 kilogram is an error in transcription, because the formula given by Lomholt in the *Lancet* of December 18th, 1920 (p. 1251), distinctly specifies 2 kilograms, and I certainly find that nearly this amount is needed, producing a dark reddish-yellow liquid. A further point arises as to what has been regarded as a 50 per cent. solution of potash. The workers at Copenhagen no doubt used equal weights of potash and water, and this weight/weight solution was used in my preparation. A solution made up of 50 grams of potash with water to 100 c.cm., commonly understood as a 50 per cent. solution within the Empire, would be considerably weaker—only about 33 per cent. weight/weight.

## THE BLOOD TRAIL.

Dr. JOHN IVES (St. Mary's Hospital, W.2) writes: Shortly after reading Sir John Bland-Sutton's very interesting Ingleyby Lecture (*Journal*, May 24th, p. 937) I came across the following, which makes another interesting link in the "Blood Trail." It is taken from Pepys's Diary for November 14th, 1666. "Dr. Croone told me that at a meeting at Gresham College to-night there was a pretty experiment of the blood of one dog let out (till he died) into the body of another on one side, while all his own run out on the other side. The first died upon the place, and the other very well, and likely to do well. This did give occasion to many pretty wishes, as of the blood of a Quaker to be let into an Archbishop, and such like; but, as Dr. Croone says, may, if it takes, be of mighty use to man's health, for the amending of bad blood by borrowing from a better body." Two days later Pepys is told that the dog "is very well, and like to be so as ever"; he doubts not "its being found of great use to men." It is interesting to note that it took over two hundred years for this pious prophecy to be fulfilled—with safety.

## THE TIMES OF OVULATION AND CONCEPTION.

"T. M. C." calls attention to statements in an article by K. Ogino in the *Zentralblatt für Gynäkologie*, of which an abstract appeared in the *Epitome* of May 10th (para. 434). Our correspondent writes: Ogino states that after the eleventh day preceding menstruation conception is impossible, and, on the other hand, that fruitful coitus takes place from the nineteenth to twelfth day before menstruation. Is there any general support for this theory among our British gynaecologists? Obviously, the theory has most important bearing upon birth control if true. On the other hand, if incorrect, as I think most physicians would imagine, the idea, if disseminated, may have very unsatisfactory results.

## MEDICAL GOLF.

THE annual summer meeting of the Medical Golfing Society was held at Walton Heath on May 29th; more than 100 members competed, and all greatly enjoyed the kind hospitality once more extended to the society by Lord Riddell. The links were in grand condition and the weather was perfect. The various competitions resulted as follows:

*Lancet Challenge Cup*.—W. Rowley Bristow, after a tie with C. Max Page at 1 down.

*Milsom Rees Challenge Cup*.—M. G. Mayou, after a tie with J. W. Harrison at 5 down.

*Henry Morris Challenge Cup*.—A. Don, 3 up.

*Veterans' Cup*.—A. Don, 3 up; George Dawson, 2 up.

*Class 1*.—First prize: C. Max Page, after a tie with W. Rowley Bristow at 2 up. *Best last nine holes*: H. C. Apperley, 1 up.

*Class 2*.—First prize: A. Don, 3 up; second prize: George Dawson, 2 up. *Best last nine holes*: J. W. Harrison, 3 up.

*Foursomes*.—1st, T. J. Kelleher and J. Grace; 2nd, Lindsay Rea and W. McCullagh.

WITH the links in a heavy condition owing to the recent rains, members of the Manchester and District Medical Golfers' Association found low scoring difficult on the Prestbury and Upton course on May 28th, when the annual 18-hole handicap meeting of the association was played. The best net return was 73, at which figure there was a tie between Dr. M. McGregor of Prestwich and Dr. A. B. S. Drysdale of Salford, who were left to make their own arrangements as to a play-off to decide the destination of the challenge cup, which Dr. McGregor eventually won. Dr. A. Burns of Openshaw won the Walter gold medal for the best gross score with a round of 78, while the Walter silver medal for the best gross score by those with handicaps of 10 or over was won by Dr. Drysdale, who was round in 83. The leading returns were: Dr. M. McGregor and Dr. A. B. S. Drysdale, 73; Dr. D. G. Macpherson (Newton Heath), 74; Dr. A. Burns (Openshaw), 75; Dr. J. W. Chadwick (Bollington) and Dr. J. M. Cowan (Prestwich), 76; and Dr. H. M. Port (Oldham), 77. There were nearly 140 competitors.

## VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 82, and 83 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 80 and 81.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 255.