

At a meeting of the committee of the Royal Eye Hospital, Eastbourne, on June 6th, Dr. Milner Moore, on his retirement from office, was presented with a portable wireless set, in appreciation of the services he had rendered that institution as honorary secretary for a period of seventeen years.

THE May issue of the *Bulletin of Hygiene* contains a review of recent literature on alcoholism—the third of an annual series—by Dr. J. D. Rolleston, dealing chiefly with its prevalence in various countries, with special reference to the cocktail habit and methyl alcohol drinking, the association of alcoholism with tuberculosis and mental disease, the decline of the use of alcohol in therapeutics, the diagnosis of alcoholism by colorimetric methods, and the recent drastic legislation in Soviet Russia for combating alcoholism. A bibliography of thirty-six references to the literature of nine different countries is appended.

THE fund being raised for the Birmingham Hospital Centre scheme reached the sum of £477,997 on June 6th. This amount included the £100,000 which Mr. Harry Vincent, president of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, promised on condition that £350,000 was offered by the date mentioned.

THE challenge cup presented three years ago to the Metropolitan Counties Branch, to be awarded to the best all-round athlete who is a student at one of the London medical schools, was competed for at the United Hospitals annual sports, when Mr. Cramer, of the London Hospital, Mr. W. Hertzog, of Guy's Hospital, and Mr. Sandysford, of St. Thomas's Hospital, each won two events. These three gentlemen, therefore, will hold the cup jointly for the year.

IT has been agreed with the authorities of the London Hospital that the London County Council shall, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, undertake the responsibility for the conduct of the venereal diseases clinic at the hospital. An agreed amount will be paid by the Council for the use of the venereal diseases department, and the Council will take over such of the equipment in the clinic as is the property of the hospital at a valuation to be devised jointly by both parties. The clinic is to be open every weekday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and also on Sundays.

## 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.**

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

### TREATMENT OF HEADACHE.

"SUBURBAN" asks for suggestions for treating a schoolmaster, aged 46, temperate in his habits, who suffers from headache after any kind of physical strain. The pain comes on a few seconds after the provoking cause. It does not last long, but if a further action is taken the pain becomes continuous and then persists for several hours. Mental work does not induce the headache. The patient has also a slight unsteadiness while walking, particularly if the head is turned upwards or sideways. Aspirin, in 10-grain doses, taken an hour or so before playing a game, will usually minimize the headache. The eyes have been examined and a slight defect corrected. The blood pressure is 140. There is a tendency to constipation, and a faint reduplication of the first mitral sound; the heart is otherwise normal. All the usual remedies have been tried, such as aperients, sedatives, alkalis, and antacutarrhal vaccines, with little more than temporary benefit.

### PREVENTION OF SUNBURN.

DR. R. J. BROCKLEHURST (London, N.W.11) writes as follows in reply to Dr. I. B. McCann's query under the above heading: A liberal application of "pommade sechehaye" protects the skin efficiently against severe sunburn. It is a brown ointment, sold in tubes; the grotesque appearance of the face after its application is amply compensated by the subsequent absence of discomfort and disfigurement which are sustained by those who travel unprotected over the snow under the summer Alpine sun. It is obtainable everywhere in Switzerland, and is stocked in London by two or three dealers who sell Alpine equipment.

### TREATMENT OF PRURITUS ANI.

DR. ROBERT E. LORD writes in reply to "Cérons's" inquiry (June 7th, p. 1089) as to the treatment of pruritus ani: Many years ago a patient, whom I still see frequently, suffered from intense pruritus ani, accompanied with a jelly-like discharge from just inside the anus. After many methods of treatment had been tried and discarded as useless, he found that he could always get relief from the application of the faradic current applied as strong as he could bear it, one pole being a metal rectal electrode and the other a flat electrode placed on the abdomen. He used this nightly for some months, and not only did the pruritus gradually cease, but the jelly-like discharge disappeared. There have been occasional relapses, but the same treatment has always succeeded in cutting them short, and he has had no return of symptoms for years.

DR. S. PENNY SNOOK (Weymouth) writes: I have found the occasional application of calomel ointment beneficial.

"G. P." writes: I have suffered from this complaint and am now (and have been for twenty years) cured, but I have still to continue the treatment, which is as follows: Wash the parts thoroughly with a sponge dripping with water (no soap); dry well, and apply a little of the following after each evacuation: zinc oxide in fine powder, pulv. amyli, equal parts; glycerinum q.s. Rub down to a soft paste. All greasy applications should be avoided.

### INCOME TAX.

#### Professional Use of Residence.

"H. T." uses one room of his residence entirely and two rooms partly for professional purposes. The inspector of taxes agrees to the deduction of one-third of the rent, rates, etc., as applicable to the professional use, but will not allow more. Is this the usual proportion? The rateable value of the house is £34.

So much depends on the precise circumstances that it is difficult to advise specifically. If the three rooms in question are the best rooms on the ground floor they would account for considerably more than one-third of the total rental value, but the "waiting room" is, we gather from the total rental value, probably in fairly general private use. On the whole, while the proportion seems to us on the low side, we do not think it is entirely unreasonable, and "H. T." is not likely to obtain any substantial increase.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### AORTIC ANEURYSM SIMULATING ASTHMA.

DR. F. WILLIAM COCK (Ashford) writes: The case of aortic aneurysm simulating asthma described by Dr. L. G. Hill (June 7th, p. 1048) is particularly interesting to me, as during a rearranging of the materials I collected for the account of the introduction of anaesthesia by Robert Liston I came across the notes of his necropsy made by Wm. Cadge in December, 1847. Dr. Hill's description is almost word for word that of Mr. Cadge. Liston, however, had a longer time for the disease to prove fatal—possibly a year, for after a very copious haemorrhage he survived for several months. He, too, had considerable asthma at the end. The small apertures from the aorta into the trachea were plugged with old ante-mortem fibrinous material. At that time (twenty years ago) I made many inquiries as to whether the specimen had been preserved, but no success followed, although I tried University College, the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and the Norwich Hospital, where Cadge's specimens are preserved. Sir William Osler particularly was interested because of the somewhat uncommon nature of the case. The condition was stated to be the after-effects of a blow on the sternum from the boom of his (Liston's) yacht.

### SPONTANEOUS SURGICAL EMPHYSEMA.

DR. G. W. DANDO (Southsea) writes: In the *Journal* of August 29th, 1925 (p. 402), I reported a case of spontaneous surgical emphysema following the confinement of a young primipara; this closely corresponded with the cases described by Dr. F. Bedo Hobbs on May 24th (p. 950). My case occurred in the Crayford Nursing Home, Kent. The labour was a somewhat prolonged one, but the emphysema cleared up in a few days. I was unable at the time to find any reference to the condition in my textbooks.

### VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 46, 47, 48, 51, 52, 53, and 54 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 49 and 50.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 267.