

TREATMENT OF PRURITUS ANI.

MR. C. D'OYLY GRANGE, F.R.C.S. (Haregate), writes in reply to "Cérons" (June 7th, p. 1080): I have had excellent results with the subcutaneous injection of "A.B.A." as described by W. B. Gabriel in the *British Medical Journal* of June 15th, 1929 (p. 1070). If there is much moisture I combine this with the application of calamine, either in the form of powder or in a very thick lotion.

* * Mr. Gabriel stated that "A.B.A.," prepared for him by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, is a 3 per cent. solution of anaesthesia with benzyl alcohol 5 per cent. and ether 10 per cent. in sterilized olive oil.

DR. FREDK. WM. ALEXANDER (Teddington) writes: About two years ago a septuagenarian medical man asked me if I could do anything for his pruritus ani, from which he had suffered for years and tried every known remedy without relief. For a period of about ten minutes I applied on the outside of the anus high-frequency electricity by means of an ordinary glass vacuum electrode kept close to the surrounding parts and moved around. From the first application the effect was striking, and an absolute cure resulted after a few treatments. Was it the ozone in this instance?

DR. THOMAS I. MILLS (York) suggests the use at bedtime of a salve containing of menth. pip. 5 per cent. in Lassar's paste.

PROTECTION AGAINST SUNBURN AND MIDGE BITES.

PROFESSOR J. A. NIXON (Bristol) sends the following replies to questions by Dr. Ivan B. McCann and "Perplexed" in the *Journal* of June 7th (pp. 1079, 1080):

Prevention of Sunburn.—The best protecting substance is quinine, either in the form of a lotion (1 per cent.) or an ointment (5 per cent.). As it is difficult to introduce quinine into an ointment, I give a formula which I have found effective in the mountains:

Quinine acid hydrochloride (dissolve 1 in 9 of water)	5
Anhydrous wool fat	40
Oil of lavender	1
Soft paraffin	to 100

Midge Bites.—Cod-liver oil provides complete protection. I use it in combination with quinine to make a "sunburn and midge cream." This is the formula:

Quinine acid hydrochloride	5
Cod-liver oil	20
Anhydrous wool fat	75
Oil of lavender or geranium	q.s.

DR. CLAUDE WILSON (Tunbridge Wells), president of the Alpine Club, writes on the prevention of sunburn as follows: Dr. McCann will find his question answered in the *British Medical Journal* for April 10th, 1926 (p. 681), in which there are some notes that would interest him. But, for practical purposes, there are many preparations sold by the chemists at most mountaineering centres. The original and the best is the pomade Seelshaye, made and sold in collapsible tubes, at 2.50 francs per tube, by the Pharmacie Haüsser, 10, Boute-de-Four, Geneva.

* J. F. W. has found an anti-insect preparation which is sold under the name of "No-Midge" to be very satisfactory. It is made by Adams, of 162, Higher Hillgate, Stockport, and is supplied in small collapsible tubes.

* YARRAMAN "thinks that "Perplexed" will find oil of citronella (a drop here and there on the dress, not forgetting the stockings) will keep away midges. The smell is pleasant. When camping out (he says) a cake of dry cowdung, lighted, will smoulder like touchwood, and keep away midges and mosquitos.

INCOME TAX.

Deductible Expenses.

* G. C. inquires what expenses can be deducted in computing assessable income from clinics, lectures, consulting practice, and journalism.

* * There can be no question about such expenses as professional postage and telephone costs, rent of consulting room, and professional subscriptions, which are clearly allowable. The cost of travelling from residence to consulting rooms is perhaps open to doubt. If professional work is done at home and the various earnings are so interconnected that they should be dealt with as a single entity—and there seems good ground for suggesting that that would be the correct course—we are of opinion that the travelling expenses are allowable.

Request to Produce Bank Pass Books.

"J. G." has for the past eight years employed a certified accountant to prepare his income tax returns. He has been asked to supply his bank pass books and details of his investments, sales, and purchases for some of the past years. Is this request supported by legal authority?

* * We presume that "J. G." has supplied certified copies of his professional accounts in the past; if so, the request seems quite unusual, and we suggest that "J. G." might ask the inspector of taxes to state the reason why it has been made to him. So far as the legal position is concerned, the inspector

has no legal right to enforce the request, but the Commissioners responsible for the assessment in the last resort could require the production of the pass books, etc., if they decided to do so in the course of an appeal which "J. G." might make against an assessment made on his income.

Cash Receipts Bas's.

"J. J." bought a share in a partnership at January, 1928. At the end of 1928 there was an amount of over £400 due to him for professional work, which, in many cases, was being paid off gradually in small weekly sums. The inspector of taxes has made an allowance for probable bad debts, but will not accept a computation of liability based on the cash receipts of 1928.

* * The inspector is legally correct. There is undoubtedly some hardship in having to pay tax on income before it is received, but as the law stands it is the amount of the earnings, whether received in cash or not, that determines the amount of the liability.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

DR. A. G. NEWELL (St. Leonards-on-Sea) writes: Dr. Moir's experience (*Journal*, June 7th, p. 1048) is interesting; it reminds me of one of several done under difficult conditions. I was travelling by train in Sylhet and we had arrived at a station. Immediately after the train started on its journey we heard an agonizing cry and loud shouts, and on looking out I found a native woman was lying on the rails. I shouted to the guard to stop the train. The woman had discovered this was the station she should have got out at; she had opened the door and evidently succeeded in getting to the lower step, from which she either jumped or fell. Her left foot was practically severed and hanging to the leg by a flap of skin; she had a large tear up the leg and the tibial and popliteal arteries were torn; there was much haemorrhage. I improvised a tourniquet, and took her into my compartment. I was to get out at the next station, where I had arranged for a trap to convey me to an estate about two and a half miles off. I had to put digital pressure on the femoral artery continuously till I reached my station. I then put a second improvised tourniquet and some firm bandaging on the femoral artery, and took the woman in my trap to the estate. There I arrived at dusk, and had to send ten miles for my instruments for amputation. In the early hours of the morning, in a small hut dispensary, I amputated above the knee. I had as assistants an unqualified babu doctor and a native syce. There were three candles and a small oil lamp. After a few days the patient was fit enough to be conveyed to the railway hospital at headquarters. After ten or eleven days she died. The amputation was a success, but it was found that she had an enlarged spleen, which had burst from the fall and caused secondary internal haemorrhage.

HERPES AND VARICELLA.

DR. F. G. LEOPOLD GOFFE (Kingston-on-Thames) sends the following note: N. D., male, only child, aged 9 years, developed lobar pneumonia on October 15th, 1929. He was nursed at home by his mother, assisted by a grandmother and an aunt. N. D.'s mother, aged 46 years, developed herpes on November 1st, 1929. There was irritation of the skin, at the site of the subsequent eruption, for two days before the appearance of well-marked herpetic vesicles in the right groin and on the right tabrum majus, the upper and inner part of the right thigh, the inner side of the right knee, the right trochanter, the right buttock, and over the lumbosacral spine. None elsewhere. N. D., who occupied the same room as his mother, developed varicella on November 12th, 1929. He had well-marked vesicles on the face, scalp, palate, tongue, trunk, and limbs. The only visitors to N. D. and his mother during their illness were adults—namely, his father, grandmother, two aunts, and two uncles, none of whom showed any signs of herpes or of varicella. These contacts knew of no one who had either herpes or varicella before, during, or after N. D.'s and his mother's illness. This association between herpes and varicella I had noticed on several occasions while I was a resident in a fever hospital. A patient in a ward would develop herpes, and a fortnight later varicella would crop up in the ward, to be followed by successive outbreaks at regular fortnightly intervals.

RAPID LABOUR IN A PRIMIPARA.

DR. L. SCHAPERA (London, N.W.10) writes: I think the following case of rapid labour is worth recording. A primipara, aged 24, commenced labour at 8 p.m. and gave birth to a fully developed male child, weighing 6½ lb., at 11.55 p.m. I examined her at 10.55 p.m., when the os was only one fingerbreadth dilated; the membranes ruptured at 11.30 p.m.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, and 54 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 263.