

complained of a small raised swelling, itchy and a little painful, situated just below the spine of the right scapula. Examination showed that in the centre of this small ovoid swelling was a circular opening into which a good-sized probe could be passed. On gentle pressure a maggot was expressed. It was about half an inch long and three-eighths of an inch broad at its thickest part. Some days later similar swellings appeared over the left mastoid region, and over the great trochanter of the right femur. The patient was healthy, but came in contact daily with cattle, and admitted having squeezed similarly shaped maggots out of the backs of cattle in the spring-time, when the warble maggot is so very common. The life-history of the warble fly is very complex; most entomologists maintain that the ova are deposited in the region of the hoof, but that the young larvae penetrate the skin, and after undergoing various transformations, which occupy about eight to nine months, make their way towards the surface of the body of the host, usually the back. Once infection has occurred, it is doubtful if any form of treatment is useful. When all the maggots escape there is a natural end to the infection.

Mr. R. J. SCHARFF (Co. Dublin) writes to say that one of the most competent authorities on the life-history of the warble fly is the Rev. G. H. Carpenter, D.Sc., Keeper of the Manchester Museum, who has written many papers on the subject.

Accidental Compression of Ureter

"G. P." writes: A surgeon, when operating on a patient for a uterine complaint, put a Spencer Wells forceps on the ureter by mistake. Later the compressed part sloughed, and infiltration of urine into the tissues was the result. As a general practitioner I should like to know how a good surgeon would rectify his error.

Dax-les-Bains

"P. H." asks for information about the types of rheumatism usually sent to Dax-les-Bains, near Biarritz.

** Dr. F. Parkes Weber, to whom we have referred the query, gives the following list of conditions considered suitable for treatment at this spa: chronic rheumatoid arthritis and osteo-arthritis cases, muscular rheumatism, rheumatic neuralgias, sciatica, and old traumatic joint troubles.

Income Tax

Interest Paid to a Bank

"I. E." borrowed £1,000 from a bank to purchase a share in a practice. Is he entitled to any allowance for the amount of interest paid by him to the bank?

** Yes. He should obtain a certificate from the bank each year of the amount of interest paid by him and forward it to the inspector of taxes with any receipts, counterfoils, etc., which he may have to show he has paid tax, and he will receive an allowance in respect of the bank interest.

Proportion of House Expenses Chargeable

"Z" runs a practice from his residence, and is allowed to deduct one-half of the rateable value and cost of lighting and heating to cover use of surgery, waiting-room, and garage. He has a resident patient for whom he provides the best bedroom, and a second bedroom for the resident nurse. What should be deducted for the cost of that accommodation and of the food, etc., provided?

** So much depends on the particular circumstances of cases like this that any "rule-of-thumb" method is apt to be misleading. So far as the general expenses—for example, rent or rateable value, lighting and heating, domestic service, etc.—are concerned, probably the best line of approach in this case is to look at the other side of the question—that is, to decide what can fairly be regarded as the proportion to be attributed to the accommodation, etc., of "Z" and his family. If, for instance, it represents one-third, then, as one-half is already allocated to the general practice, the amount still available as an income tax deduction would be one-sixth. So far as food is concerned, the basis might be a proportion—for example, two-sixths if the total number of residents is six—with some subsequent modification for special diet, preferential treatment, etc.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Natural Healing of Ulcers

DR. NORMAN H. JOY (Reading) writes: I have been much interested in Mr. Dickson Wright's treatment of varicose ulcers, because it is an improvement of a method I thought of years ago. I had regarded the question from one point of view only, which Dr. Silcock, in his letter (January 3rd, p. 34), has completely missed. He wants to know whether the improvement of treatment is due to the injections or the supporting bandages. I consider the chief part of it is due to the ulcer being allowed to heal in a natural way, instead of being constantly interfered with. What chance has the newly formed skin got to spread over the ulcer when it is constantly being interfered with by fomentations, etc.? We have to remember how very delicate this newly formed skin is. I feel certain we are wasting an enormous amount of money and time by using too many fomentations, etc., as a matter of routine, and also many a wound is redressed unnecessarily. I have recently had a case where a man had had the last joint of a finger accidentally cut off. Of course, the stump was suppurating; therefore, of course, it had to be bathed twice a day. When I saw it I at once put on boric lint, and looked at it five days after. The stump was far more healthy, and the skin had started to cover it, and the man told me it was far more comfortable.

Tuberculosis in Labrador

The fourth annual report of the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland for the year ended September, 1930, refers to the need for more extensive public health work on the coast of Labrador, especially in tuberculosis. At Harrington Harbour last winter seven of the eight patients in the local hospital at one time are stated to have suffered from this disease. The proportion is evidently not abnormal, and is attributed partly to careless habits and unhygienic domestic conditions. Progress in preventive education is hampered by lack of suitable material for propaganda purposes. Other prevalent diseases were pneumonia, rickets, and beri-beri, which were aggravated by the lowered resistance and insufficiency of food and clothing during an exceptionally severe winter. In appealing for increased financial support to maintain its hospitals, nursing stations, and industrial centres, the committee (82, Victoria Street, S.W.1) draws attention to the fact that about £10,000 will be required to rebuild its hospital at Battle, which was recently destroyed by fire.

Natural Labour after Caesarean Section

DR. T. P. ZUM BUSCH (Liestal, Switzerland) writes: The following case may be of interest to your readers in relation to the letter by "H. M." (November 22nd, 1930, p. 891). A woman, over 40 years of age, was brought to the Liestal Hospital one morning at about 8 a.m. in an apparently moribund condition. Sixteen years ago, when in the last weeks of her first pregnancy, she had been stabbed in the abdomen with a large butcher's knife. The stomach and small intestine had been perforated in several places, as well as the uterus and foetus. The latter was removed dead by Caesarean section, and the injuries to the viscera were repaired. In the following years five healthy children were born naturally. She had again been pregnant for nearly nine months, and on getting up on the night before admission to pass water had suddenly been seized with violent abdominal pain. Her condition becoming worse, a medical man was called, who ordered her removal to the hospital, where she arrived about four hours after the onset of pain. I diagnosed rupture of the uterus, and at once opened the abdomen under local anaesthesia, when a nearly fully developed foetus and the placenta were found lying free in the abdominal cavity, which also contained a large quantity of blood; the tear went through the old scar. The well-contracted uterus was removed, and the patient made an uninterrupted recovery.

Vacancies

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46, 47, and 48.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 11.