

Treatment of Syphilis

Dr. E. TYTLER BURKE (Salford) writes: The case upon which Dr. A. L. Pirrie seeks advice in the *Journal* of January 17th (p. 123), although originally a simple one of sero-positive primary syphilis, must now be regarded as one of endo-syphilis heading towards Wassermann-fastness and permanent grave visceral damage chiefly in the cardio-vascular and central nervous systems. The treatment one would recommend is as follows: bivatol, twice weekly for eight weeks (iodides for last four weeks); stabilarsan, once weekly for eight weeks; bivatol, twice weekly for eight weeks (iodides for last four weeks); stabilarsan, once weekly for eight weeks; bivatol, twice weekly for eight weeks; stabilarsan, once weekly for eight weeks; bivatol, twice weekly for eight weeks. The duration of the treatment is fifty-six weeks, during which, with no rest intervals, there are given 18.6 grams of stabilarsan and sixty-four injections of bivatol of 2 c.cm. each, amounting to 3.84 grams of bismuth metal.

Income Tax**Assessment of Stipend from Appointment**

"W. A. R." took up an appointment at £150 per annum as from March, 1929. At the end of June, 1929, he gave up a post and began practice elsewhere. He is now being assessed on the basis that the £150 is separate from his general earnings, and the result appears to be to increase his liability as compared with that calculated on the basis of including all earnings in the general assessment.

* "W. A. R." appears to have no legal remedy. Fees paid by public authorities are assessed as part of general earnings, but a stipend is legally chargeable under Schedule E separately. But we are not clear that the ultimate result would be different, because if, say, £100 of the stipend is thrown into the general assessment at his present district, the balance would undoubtedly have to be changed in the former district, under the provisions dealing with ceasing income. In other words, our correspondent had £150 for the year 1929-30, and on either basis the revenue is entitled to tax thereon.

Obsolescence—Cash Basis

"W. A. W." (1) A car was bought in 1927 for £365 and that amount has been reduced by yearly depreciation allowances to £268. The car was sold in 1930 for £150 and a new car bought for £340. What allowance is due? (2) He proposes to retire from practice in July, 1931. Will he be liable to account for tax on amounts received after that date for previous services?

* (1) £268-£150=£118 can be claimed as an "obsolescence allowance" in computing the profits of the year 1930. (2) They will not be liable as additional receipts. The only way in which they could affect taxation would be if the authorities insisted on a revision of the period April 5th, 1930, to July, 1931, to an "earnings" instead of a "cash receipts" basis, but that is unlikely in view of the additional charge for obsolescence occurring in the year 1930.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Medical Congress at Bangkok**

The eighth Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine was held last month at Bangkok, under the presidency of Prince Thavara, physician-in-ordinary to the King of Siam. The following description of the reception given to the delegates who attended this congress is extracted from a private letter sent home by a member of the British Medical Association: "The most prominent feature was the extraordinary and astonishing way in which we were entertained and welcomed by our hosts. Twenty-eight to twenty-nine hours from Bangkok we were met by several Siamese who had been sent down to look after us. At the station our guides had arranged flags along the platform to indicate the hotels to which we had been assigned. Before going to our hotels we were taken to the information bureau and given numbered badges, and two books about Siam, each, I think, specially compiled for the occasion. Fifty cars were available during the week to take us from meetings and entertainments. One morning I visited the waterworks, which are excellent. Bacteriological samples are taken five times daily. We were shown the sampling, which was beautifully done, and also the analysis figures, which are

very good indeed. . . . The mosquitos in Bangkok are very numerous, but there is said to be little malaria about." The letter then refers to a performance of the "lantern dance"—a rare event—given in honour of the congress. "The lanterns were carried by seventy-two boys, who expressed in song the hopes of Siam that the health of her people would improve as the result of the congress. . . . In the interval of the 'khow' (mask dance) the delegates were presented to the King and Queen of Siam. All the royal princes are working very actively as heads of the various departments." The writer mentions that about 170 members of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine were present at the congress, and an even larger number of associate members from Siam. He was particularly struck by the general use of the English language, very well spoken, by all the Siamese officers and by the hotel staffs.

Glycerin as a Surgical Dressing

Dr. H. A. MORTON WHITBY (Hampstead) writes: Dr. Kyle's letter (*Journal*, January 10th, p. 75) and the subsequent correspondence on the subject interest me considerably as I have been in the habit of using glycerin, on account of its hygroscopic and apparent bactericidal action, for burns and accidental and operation septic wounds for several years with very good results. In combination with liq. hyd. perchlor. it acts as an excellent paint for all kinds of cellulitis, and, of course, is well known as a gargle. Two years ago I started to use plain glycerin for the injection of tuberculous abscess cavities, after evacuation of the contents and cauterizing with iodized phenol. I must have treated some thirty cases or more by this method, and in all the wounds healed with a minimum scar.

Dr. H. W. WEBBER (King's Tamerton) writes: As far as I am aware, no one in the recent correspondence has mentioned the combination of ichthyol with glycerin (equal parts). I learnt the use of this from a note in the *Practitioner* some years ago, and have proved its value on many occasions. In cases of lymphangitis it acts remarkably well; septic wounds of the fingers with the accompanying inflamed lymphatic vessels and glands clear up most satisfactorily with one or two applications.

Linseed for Constipation

Dr. W. GLEGG (Menton, France) writes: The use of whole linseed as an effective remedy for deficient bulk in the intestinal contents in constipation might be better known at home. Here it is supplied in tins, imported from Sicily, and it is cleaned from adventitious matter. Two teaspoonfuls, more or less, are taken, washed down with water without chewing. This is repeated daily, morning or night, and combined, when the stools require softening, with small doses of a reliable high-density brand of liquid paraffin.

Painless Natural Labour

Dr. A. BURN (Crawley, Sussex) writes: The case of painless natural labour which I reported three years ago (*January 21st, 1928*, p. 120) has just been repeated. The same patient had her second child—an eight-pound boy—by the same painless means last week. The labour lasted for two hours—that is to say, uterine contractions and dilatation of the os were only noticed two hours before the child was born. The sole inconvenience of which the patient complained was a dull ache in the groins whenever the uterus contracted. Another point of interest is the fact that the father of the child is suffering from post-lethargic Parkinsonism.

Tuberculin Clinic

Dr. W. CAMAC WILKINSON writes to announce that the work of the Tuberculin Dispensary, hitherto carried on at 82, Fitzroy Street, W.1, will be carried on henceforward at 11, Nottingham Place, W.1. The institution will be called the Tuberculin Clinic, and for the present it will be open on Mondays and Fridays, from 1.30 to 4 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, 45, 46, 47, and 51 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 48, 49, and 50.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 31.