

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Alcoholism

"W. E. M." writes: In reply to the inquiry by "A. B. C." April 4th, p. 610) for some substance which can advisably be put into alcoholic drinks, such as whisky, to engender a distaste in an addict, I suggest $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of paraldehyde into one bottle of whisky. If this is not effective, send the patient to a voluntary home for alcoholic addiction.

Pregnancy Records

Dr. J. L. DIGBY (Tenterfield, N.S.W.) writes: In reply to "J. J. S." in the *Journal* of December 20th, 1930 (p. 1072), I would like to inform him that the pregnancy record published by him is beaten by a patient of mine, who was delivered on February 3rd, 1929, of a healthy full-time female child. The child was breast-fed, and the mother never menstruated. On December 1st, 1929, I confined her again; another fully developed female child was born.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Treatment of Varicose Ulceration

Dr. E. GARDEN (Leyton, E.) writes: Your columns have been so much occupied lately with correspondence either eulogizing or deploring the direct application of adhesive strapping to varicose ulcers that a method described in your issue of October 4th, 1930, would seem almost to have been overlooked. The moist paste bandage treatment described by K. M. and C. J. Cellan-Jones appealed to me because of its simplicity of application, and I have had opportunities of proving its value in different cases. I am prompted to write this letter by reason of a recent severe case of varicose ulceration where the all-important demand was a speedy return to full work. The ambulatory paste bandage technique was carried out according to the authors' instructions, and sound healing was secured in a period of just over three weeks. The patient was delighted with the freedom from pain which followed the first application, and the other noteworthy feature was the rapidity with which a considerable degree of oedema was reduced. I have no hesitation in commending the paste bandage to the busy general practitioner, for the following reasons: (1) no special skill is required in its application; (2) it allows of the evaporation of secretions and is the readiest means of relieving pain; (3) it secures healing if conscientiously applied.

Dr. R. W. COCKSHUT (Hendon) writes: I do not think that sufficient gratitude has been expressed by the general practitioner to Mr. Dickson Wright for perfecting the elastoplast treatment of varicose ulcers. This treatment may be as old as the hills, but I do not recollect anybody telling me about it when I was a student. I have spent many hours using Unna's paste with absolutely no success. Mr. Dickson Wright is one of the benefactors of the twentieth century, and when he thinks of the thousands of ulcers now healing in England he must be a happy man. May I say

that I have found painting the leg with glycerin ichthylol 5 per cent. an excellent preventive of irritation and dermatitis?

Hypodermic Medication

"J. V. M." (Co. Cavan) asks us to reproduce the description of subcutaneous injection published in the *Dublin Medical Press*, March 12th, 1845, "as it would be of interest after Mr. Cathcart's quotation of Dr. Wood's description of hypodermic medication in the *Journal* of February 21st (p. 336)."

* The report is headed "Neuralgia—Introduction of Fluid to the Nerve. By Mr. Rynd." The patient was a woman, aged 59, admitted into the Meath Hospital and County of Dublin Infirmary on May 18th, 1844, complaining of acute pain over the entire left side of the face. She had been so much in the habit of taking laudanum that latterly half a drachm, three times a day, had no effect in lulling the pain, and this was the quantity she commonly took. "She was a miserable sallow-complexioned looking creature, had been sleepless for months, and her face was furrowed with constant pain. On the 3rd of June a solution of fifteen grains of acetate of morphia, dissolved in one drachm of creosote, was introduced to the supra-orbital nerve, and along the course of the temporal, malar, and buccal nerves, by four punctures of an instrument made for the purpose. In the space of a minute all pain (except that caused by the operation, which was very slight) had ceased, and she slept better that night than she had done for months. After the interval of a week she had slight return of pain in the gums of both upper and lower jaw. The fluid was again introduced by two punctures made in the gum of each jaw, and the pain disappeared. After this the pain did not recur, and she was detained in hospital for some weeks, during which time her health improved, her sleep was restored, and she became quite a happy-looking person. She left the hospital on the 1st of August in high spirits, and promised to return if she ever felt the slightest pain again. We conclude she continues well, for we have not heard from her since." Another case, that of sciatica in a man, aged 28, treated in the same way by Mr. Rynd, was reported in the same issue of the *Dublin Medical Press*. A description of Francis Rynd's instrument appeared in the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*, 1861, xxxii, 13.

Peking Man

The issue of *Antiquity* for March is especially distinguished by an admirable account of the discovery of primitive man in China by Professor G. Elliot Smith, whose lectures on the subject in London and in Edinburgh have been noted in recent issues of the *Journal*. It will be recalled that Professor Elliot Smith regards the discovery of the Peking remains as marking a new epoch in human palaeontology, since they not only provide much unequivocal information concerning a third and hitherto unknown genus of early Pleistocene man, but demonstrate that the *Pithecanthropus* of Java and the *Eoanthropus* of Piltown are not really incompatible with one another. "The brain-case of *Sinanthropus*," he writes, "reveals many features which are unknown either in the Ape-man of Java or in the Piltown skull, and throws a great deal of light upon the characters of the common ancestor of the human family, from which all these genera had been derived. One of the most striking illustrations of this fact is the peculiar form of the mastoid region of the temporal bone, recalling as it does the condition found in the newborn child and in the adult anthropoid apes. For it lacks that salient character which is so distinctive of the adult human being of other genera." The article is vivaciously written, and is illustrated by a number of plates.

A Link with the Past

The widow of Fred Wood, who was for many years the resident apothecary of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, died on April 2nd at Bournemouth, within two months of completing her hundredth year. She was the eldest daughter of William Birch of Barton, and the aunt of Mr. J. Lionel Stretton of Kidderminster.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, and 59 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships and locumtenencies at pages 56 and 57.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 115.