

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

Wagstaff's Forceps

"CROYDONIAN" writes: Would any reader of the *British Medical Journal* give his experiences of Wagstaff's obstetrical forceps? They are praised by Stark in his work on general practice, but I can find no reference elsewhere. How does one distinguish upper from lower blade, and how does one determine the correct axis of pull?

Hemicrania

Dr. R. A. HOLLINGSWORTH (Sydenham) asks for suggestions in the treatment of the following case. A lady, aged 50, has suffered from migrainous attacks from the age of 15. The attacks have always been of the severest type, the pain being above concert pitch. Of late they have become more frequent, barely a week elapsing between them. The pain is worse when it settles in the left eyeball, and is attended with severe vomiting. The intensity of the pain is such that the patient asserts that she is hardly able to see with the left eye at the height of the paroxysm. An attack usually lasts three to four days, during which no food can be retained. There is evidence of hypopituitarism. The eyes have been examined, and suitable glasses prescribed. The teeth are in good condition. The bowels are constipated, and are only opened by laxatives. The liver is peculiarly intolerant to such drugs as calomel and ammonium chloride, a dose of any of these precipitating a typical attack of biliary colic. Eight years ago the patient was operated on for gall-stones. All the usual drugs, such as bromides, phenacetin, antipyrin, and aspirin, have been tried to little or no purpose. Morphine injections alone afford relief from pain, but the undesirable after-effects of this drug, coupled with the nerve-exhausting nature of the attacks themselves, are seriously undermining the patient's general health.

Coincident Zoster and Varicella

Dr. J. BORRIE HARRIS (Armagh) writes, in reply to Dr. S. R. Hunter (April 4th, p. 610): The herpes zoster is very likely the cause of the varicella. Sir James Purves-Stewart, in his *Diagnosis of Nervous Diseases*, states: "The infective organism which produces herpes is apparently identical, in many cases, with that of varicella, for a chicken-pox epidemic may take its starting-point from a case of herpes zoster" (vide also Bokay, *Wien. klin. Woch.*, September 30th, 1909, and R. C. Low, *British Medical Journal*, January 25th, 1919). Osler also points out that varicella may often attack adults who have escaped in childhood, and he, too, refers to the association with herpes zoster. Some time ago, when in Scotland, I treated a male patient, aged 38, who developed varicella while suffering from herpes zoster, although there was no other case of varicella in the neighbourhood. On another occasion, in a small town similarly free from varicella, a child developed varicella while living in the house of a patient who had herpes zoster.

Income Tax

Change in Share of Partnership Profits

"R. O. E." was a partner on the basis of one-third share to January 1st, 1931, and subsequently on a one-half basis. How will his liability be calculated for 1931-32?

** On one-half of the amount of the profits of the year 1930. Further, his proportion of the gross assessment for the year ended April 5th, 1931, should be three-quarters of one-third + one-quarter of one-half = one-quarter + one-eighth—that is, three-eighths.

Earnings Abroad during Short Period

"MAHARAJAH" left England on March 14th, 1930, to take up an appointment in an Indian Native State which was expected to last some years. Owing to unexpected circumstances the appointment was of short duration, and our correspondent arrived back in England on September 5th, 1930. Is he liable to income tax here on the earnings of the appointment? No residence was maintained in the United Kingdom during his absence. The remuneration was paid in India in rupees.

** The circumstances are unusual, and in our opinion "Maharajah" is not liable in respect of the earnings accruing to him while abroad. If in the absence of due notice he received as pay, or in lieu of pay, sums calculated to cover a period ending after September 5th, 1930, then he would apparently be liable in respect of pay accruing for a period after that date.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Visit of Scientists to Russia

We have received the following letter for publication from Lady Sprigge (chairman), Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, and Professor Julian Huxley, on behalf of the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the U.S.S.R.: It is proposed to organize a tour of scientists to the U.S.S.R., and the first party will leave London Bridge by Soviet ship for Leningrad on July 18th. The return fare will be £18 inclusive. The party will spend a total of sixteen days in Russia: three days in Leningrad, five days in Moscow, half day in Nizhni-Novgorod, and four days on the river down to Stalingrad (if desired), and the cost per day will be £1 per head inclusive, the balance of the days being spent in travelling. Meetings will be arranged, which members of the party will be invited to address, and there will be excursions, with guides, to scientific institutions of interest to the members. The Soviet authorities are prepared to give this tour second category accommodation at third category prices. The accommodation will be comfortable, and persons will sleep three or four in a room. Those wishing to sleep two in a room will pay 5s. per day extra. In the first instance, the party will consist of twenty-five persons. If there is a large demand for places a second party will be made up of twenty-five; the Russian authorities are prepared to accommodate up to one hundred persons if necessary. A further party may be arranged, if sufficient names are received, to leave London about the second week of August, returning to London in time for the British Association Meeting. The latest date for receiving applications is April 30th. Applications and all inquiries should be addressed to the secretary, Society for Cultural Relations, 1, Montague Street, W.C.1.

Filter-tipped Cigarettes

A device for intercepting the acrid constituents of tobacco smoke without impairing its flavour or obstructing free draught has been introduced by the firm of Peter Jackson (Tobacco Manufacturers) Ltd., in their du Maurier Virginia filter-tipped cigarettes. The cork-covered tip is made up of three layers of crinkled vegetable tissue, interleaved with two layers of absorbent cellulose, the edges of the coiled layers being presented axially. The aim of this ingenious filter is to trap the irritating pyridine derivatives and other non-volatile bodies, while permitting free passage of the agreeable volatile constituents of tobacco smoke.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, and 63 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships and locumtenencies at pages 60 and 61.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 127.