

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Impotence following Tonsillectomy

Dr. R. MACD. LADELL writes: In answer to "Perplexed," it seems likely that his patient is suffering from a psychological condition analogous to "ejaculatio praecox." It is possible that the operation, and particularly the secondary haemorrhage, acted as a psychic trauma and aroused a mental complex which requires psychological analysis for its elucidation.

Prophylaxis of Enteric Fever

"E. C. B." writes: As typhoid is said to be endemic in a Mediterranean island where I shall be staying this spring I should be glad to have particulars of a method for making water safe for drinking purposes.

** A person intending to reside in a place where typhoid fever is endemic and where available water is open to the risk of pollution should, before departure, undergo effective antityphoid inoculation. In order to make such water safe for drinking, one or other of the following three methods may be employed. (1) *Boiling*. Momentary exposure to 212° F. kills all non-sporeing bacteria. The water should be raised to the boiling point. (2) *Pasteur-Chamberland filter*. A portable outfit, with pump, may be obtained from Messrs. Doulton and Co., Lambeth. The pump is essential where the water is not delivered in pipes under pressure. The bougie should be taken out every three days, scrubbed, scalded, and replaced. (3) *Bleaching powder*. Put a level teaspoonful of bleaching powder into a teacupful of water. Dilute this with three teacupfuls of water and add one teaspoonful of the dilution to each two gallons of the water to be drunk. Water so treated is safe to drink fifteen minutes later. It may be found to taste of chlorine, but the amount of that substance present is innocuous. The supply of bleaching powder should be put up in small quantities in sealed tins.

Income Tax

Assistant : Expenses

"J. R." is an indoor assistant, and is making certain payments to his mother in view of the fact that she assisted him in the purchase of instruments and other necessities when starting his professional work. Are such payments deductible?

** No; essentially such expenses were in the nature of capital outlay, and the payments now being made are not admissible expenses incurred in the carrying out of his duties.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A Case of Cow-pox or Vaccinia

Dr. D. M. CATHIE writes in reply to Professor Tom Hare's letter published on January 23rd (p. 171): I would like to say that the assumption that my patient had contracted cow-pox (or vaccinia) was made from the clinical progress of the case. These observations were made carefully over a period of sixteen days. During that time the definite stages of erythema, papule, vesicle, pustule, crusting, and, finally, commencing scarring, were all observed (beyond any doubt). The fact that a cow had "discharging sores" on the teats in no way prejudiced my opinion of the case. After full investigation this was found to be the only cause of the condition, and added weight to the diagnosis. There is consequently no justification for using the term "inexperienced," when most practitioners go by their clinical findings and only bring in the special sciences to their aid in a minority of cases. I would remind Professor Hare that the majority of medical men look at cases through medical eyes and not through veterinary spectacles. I must thank him for his helpful suggestions, and, if possible, I will try to carry them out at a suitable opportunity.

Research on Sex Hormones

Dr. J. M. ROBSON (Edinburgh) writes: At the general meeting of the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the Royal Society of Medicine on January 15th, I spoke of the experiments carried out by Professor Johnstone and Dr. B. P. Wiesner with gonadotropic preparations of pregnancy urine and the results obtained in some cases of spasmodic dysmenorrhoea and other disturbances of the menstrual cycle. The report of the meeting in the *British Medical Journal* of January 23rd states that oestrin was used, and I should be very glad if you would give me the opportunity to rectify this mistake.

Victor Hensen

In the medical literature Claude Bernard's name is universally associated with the discovery of the glycogenic function of the liver in 1857. At a meeting of the Osler Club, held on January 22nd, Mr. W. R. Bett made a short communication on Victor Hensen, who, as a medical student of 21, independently discovered glycogen in the liver in 1856. His research was made known to the scientific world in two papers published in the *Verhandlungen der physikalisch-medizinischen Gesellschaft in Würzburg*, 1857, vii, 219, and in the *Archiv für pathologische Anatomie*, 1857, xi, 395. Hensen, professor of physiology at Kiel, died on April 5th, 1924, at the age of 89. In this country his memory is kept green by such familiar eponyms as Hensen's canal, cells, line, and node.

Brachial Embolus

Dr. J. KELVIN (Glasgow) writes: I read in the *British Medical Journal*, January 9th (p. 56) the description of a case of brachial embolus (very successfully operated on). I had a case last year, but did not realize that the condition was a rarity. The patient was a man of 70, suffering from acute capillary bronchitis with acute cardiac failure (dilated heart, mitral systolic murmur, oedema of legs). A week later the complication occurred which made the relatives suspect hemiplegia. The complaints now were some loss of power in right arm, with numbness, pain, and swelling in axilla. There was neither brachial nor radial pulse, which condition was obviously caused by axillary embolus. I consulted a physician, and he recommended wrapping the limb in cotton-wool. After a few days the arm condition apparently ceased to bother the patient, and no oedema or gangrene supervened. Although the patient was a debilitated subject and the oedema of the legs was increasing, he insisted upon spending a day now and then out of bed. About six weeks later he died.

Corrigendum

We are asked to correct a printer's error in the advertisement pages of our issue of January 23rd (p. 15). "Dextrosol" should read "Dextrosol."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, and 53 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 47.