

Sunburn

"SHIPS" writes: I should be grateful for advice as to the best treatment of acute sunburn, of which, as a ship surgeon on short pleasure cruises, I see many cases. Iced calamine and zinc oxide lotion with a lime-water basis gives temporary relief, but often fails to prevent blistering. I should appreciate opinions as to the advisability of adding glycerin to the above, and as to the efficacy or not of oily preparations, such as carron oil.

Plantar Corns

Dr. GEO. D. STEVEN (Bath) writes in reply to "Clavus": I would recommend treatment on the lines adopted for the case mentioned below. A deep-seated warty growth in the sole of the foot causing considerable pain and lameness in spite of frequent treatments with salicylic paints, responded quickly to the following. Soda soaks were applied for two nights before attending for treatment. The softened epidermis was then scraped away till the raw surface responsible for the growth was reached, and this was treated by diathermy fulguration till a firm scab had formed over the whole surface. Ten days later the hollow formed by the scraping had completely filled up, and healthy skin replaced the irregular growing layer. If the scraping of the softened epidermis is not thorough enough at the first attempt, the whole process may be repeated in ten days' time. I seldom find local anaesthesia necessary.

Dr. RALPH H. BROWNE-CARTHEW (London) writes: Plantar corns of the ordinary type, also corns of the verruca kind—the latter being especially troublesome and resistant to ordinary remedies, tending to recur even after excision—can be permanently cured by the judicious application of radium. This was referred to by me in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* as long ago as March 13th, 1909. The corns come away satisfactorily, leaving perfectly normal tissue, and there is no reappearance, unless, of course, the primary cause remains and produces a new corn, which is only what one would expect to happen. There is no pain or any discomfort in the treatment if care is used. Indeed, after the first application, it is generally found that the pain is much lessened, if not entirely gone.

Unilateral Oedema

Dr. JOHN A. ROBSON (Wembley Park, Middlesex) writes: In reply to the query by "O. E." regarding the treatment of unilateral oedema (April 23rd, p. 783), I would venture to ask if the advisability of operative treatment has been considered. I have seen beneficial results follow in a similar case from Sistrunk's operation, which consists in removing a long strip of fascia from the thigh and lower leg. If the thrombosis is marked it is possible that periarterial sympathectomy might have the desired effect.

Income Tax**Depreciation and Obsolescence**

"D. L." replaced his car in October, 1931. The cost price of the old car has been reduced by the aggregate depreciation allowances thereon to £168, and £147 was allowed for it against the price of the new car. The inspector of taxes is willing to allow the difference of £21 as "obsolescence," and depreciation on the new car as from the date of purchase. Can anything further be claimed?

** No. "D. L." has received an allowance for the total cost of the old car less the £147 in the aggregate of the depreciation and obsolescence allowances, and is now beginning to receive similar treatment in respect of the new car. It is true that his "out-of-pocket expense was £118 to purchase the new car," but to some extent he will have to wait for the operation of the depreciation allowance in future years to give him full recoupment.

Public Appointment: Expenses

"W. J. M." inquires whether the following expenses are allowable: (1) expense of obtaining a special diploma; (2) subscription to association; (3) cost of purchasing books and instruments.

** (1) No; such expenses are capital outlay; (2) only if the membership is required by the terms of "W. J. M.'s" appointment; (3) only to the extent necessary to maintain (but not to improve) the reference library and stock of instruments.

Professional Expenses

"R. K." asks for a reference to any "leaflet, etc.," setting out the allowances, or proportions of allowances, usually conceded in connexion with the running expenses of his practice.

** The circumstances of practices differ so much that no useful "flat rates" or proportions can be laid down for general use, and we know of no leaflet that would be

helpful. The matter was, however, dealt with rather more fully in a small handbook recently reviewed in the *Journal*—namely, *Income Tax and the Professional Man*, published at 4s. 6d. net by Crosby, Lockwood and Co.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**First-aid Classes**

Mrs. EVA M. HUBBACK, M.A. (Principal of Morley College for Working Men and Women, 61, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1) writes: We are wanting to start a class here in first-aid on Friday afternoons in connexion with a scheme for providing classes for unemployed men and women. Unfortunately we are entirely without funds for paying lecturers, and are having to rely on the generosity of those who have volunteered to help. We have not, however, as yet heard of any doctor able and willing to spare an hour or two in the afternoon to take a first-aid class. Several would-be students have indicated their wish to attend, and we very much hope to be able to arrange for a class to take place. I am venturing to ask any of your medical readers whether they can help.

Medical Golf

The summer meeting of the Medical Golfing Society will be held on Thursday, June 9th, at Walton Heath. Lord Riddell invites all competitors to be his guests for the day. The knock-out tournament for the Milsom Rees Challenge Cup has reached the semi-final stage. Rowley Bristow v. Lindsay Rea, and Major Strachan, R.A.M.C., v. Squadron Leader Brown.

Doctors and District Nurses

"COUNTRY PRACTITIONER" writes: I agree with Dr. Barford when he says, "this sort of thing is happening all over the country," and that "the British Medical Association ought to take the matter up." In addition to maternity irregularities my own experience is that the district nurse is diagnosing and treating skin diseases in children, infectious and otherwise, as a regular practice. A short time ago I had a child brought to me with profuse salivation, and was told that the nurse had been treating it for five weeks for an eruption of the face. I sent this child to hospital, where it died (as I was informed a short time later) of meningitis. Only last week a mother brought her child with a chicken-pox rash just beginning to clear, and stated that she came because there was no nurse owing to a change of nurses. On account of this change the man removing furniture from the nurse's quarters asked me what should be done with all the drugs there? Surely such practice by a district nurse constitutes a danger to the public.

Motorists and Conveyance of Goods

The ruling of the High Court in the appeal of the Automobile Association against the conviction of a Cardiff motorist for conveying goods in a private car has created a situation of importance to every private car owner. The A.A. is advised that it was never the intention of Parliament that the statutes should be interpreted in this way, and it is suggested that the decision of the High Court is contrary to the letter and spirit of the law on the subject. The point is a simple one. Under the schedules of taxation it is provided that for a vehicle to be taxed on weight—that is, as a commercial vehicle for carrying goods—it must be "constructed or adapted for use and used for the conveyance of goods or burden of any description, whether in the course of trade or otherwise." The Finance Act of 1922 provides that where a vehicle has been taxed on one basis and is subsequently altered or used in such a manner as to bring it into a higher taxable class, then the increased tax shall be paid. Thus, in order to bring the private car into the higher class it must not only be used for goods carrying, but also be constructionally adapted or altered for that purpose. This is the effect of the view strongly expressed by Mr. Justice McNaghten in dissenting from the decision of the other members of the court. The Automobile Association is informed that the whole matter is already under the urgent consideration of the Minister of Transport, and it is believed that measures will be taken to regularize the position of private car owners.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 50, 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 231.