

A Congress of the North-West German Society for the Treatment of Internal Complaints will be held at the Allgemeines Krankenhaus Barmbeck, Hamburg, on January 27th and 28th. The president desires to extend a cordial welcome to medical men of other countries who, being in Hamburg, may wish to attend this meeting, of which further particulars will be available at the British Consulate-General, Hamburg.

Among the latest contributions to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London are the sum of £1,000, being the annual subscription of His Majesty the King, Patron of the Fund, £105, the annual subscription of Her Majesty the Queen, and £200, being the annual subscription of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

The eulogy of Léon Labbé, a former president of the Académie de Médecine, as well as an eminent surgeon and politician, who was born in 1832 and died in 1916, was delivered before that body on December 13th, 1932, by Professor J. L. Faure.

Dr. Louis Martin, subdirector of the Institut Pasteur and director of the Hôpital Pasteur, has been nominated Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour.

A Union of German Biologists has recently been formed, with Professor Lehmann of Tübingen as president.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The **TELEPHONE NUMBERS** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* are MUSEUM 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864 (internal exchange, four lines).

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Separation of Finger-nails

Dr. C. F. DRUITT (Alvaston, Derby) would be glad of suggestions as to the cause and treatment of a case of separation of all finger-nails from the matrix. He writes: A small portion at the proximal end may remain attached and looks healthy, while the separated portion is black in colour. Laboratory investigation fails to reveal the presence of any active disease. Cutting the nails away where they are detached seems of no avail, and makes the fingers tender at the tips. The patient is a middle-aged lady in good health.

Cracks on Nails

Dr. GEORGE BLACK (Tomintoul) writes: Keep nails short, and paint them once a week or so with acetone collodion.

Scabies

Dr. T. LUCAS HILLIER (Boscawell) writes: Having suffered whilst in China from the complaint for which "Acarus" seeks treatment, and having tried ung. sulph. *ad nauseam* with only slight relief, I purchased a bottle of "mitigal" on the recommendation of a ship's officer. One application of this preparation (which is free from irritating effects and unpleasant odour, clean in application, and does not spoil linen) and I was free from this agitating complaint. So effective was this substance that I still have most of the original bottle left. The preparation is made by Bayer Products, Ltd. (19, St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C.3).

Dr. MAURICE NEWMAN (Liverpool) writes: I assume that "Acarus's" patient has had an intensive treatment with sulphur—a hot bath every twelve hours, the skin rubbed with a brush, and the whole body thoroughly rubbed with sulphur ointment in large quantities. This procedure, repeated for five days, should ensure the death of the parasite, provided that there has been no reinfection from the patient's clothes, which should have been thoroughly disinfected. If irritation persists the patient is probably suffering from post-scabietic pruritus, which may be due either to the nervous condition or to excessive sulphur medication. For the latter, hot baths should be taken and calamine oil applied to the skin. If the irritation is troublesome at night "mitigal" or "dermatol" may be applied. Bromide and valerian will help the nervous condition, while a change of air is often very necessary.

Income Tax

Appointments—Expenses—Special Study

"J. B. H." holds an appointment at a hospital, and inquires as to the allowance of expenses incurred (a) in studying for the D.P.H., (b) in carrying out the duties of a separate (honorary) appointment, and (c) in maintaining his membership of certain learned societies.

** (a) Not allowable; they are incurred to improve his knowledge and prospects, and are in the nature of capital outlay. (b) Not allowable, unless he is expected by the authorities of his own hospital to carry out these additional duties; "J. B. H." is assessed for his hospital emoluments only, and those expenses were not incurred in carrying out the hospital duties. (c) Allowable if the terms of his appointment (expressed or implied) require his membership of the societies in question—otherwise not allowable.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Treatment of Tinea Imbricata

Dr. J. A. S. GOONAWARDENA (London, N.W.1) writes: The usual methods of treatment adopted for this condition appear to be very unsatisfactory. While working in the interior of Ceylon ten years ago I came across three cases. One was a man of about 50, the other two were boys between 15 and 18 years of age. All three patients were put on different forms of treatment, and lotions, applications of tr. iodi, ointments of sulphur, mercury, salicylic acid, resorcin, and chrysarobin were tried without effect on the lesions. Intravenous medication was then tried with such drugs as arsenobenzol, antimony, etc. Finally, the elderly patient, who had been afflicted for five years, was given, bi-weekly, intravenous injections of a solution consisting of iodine 1 part, pot. iod. 2, aq. dest. 300, commencing with 2 c.cm. diluted up to 10 c.cm. with distilled water, the doses being gradually increased up to 7 or 10 c.cm. The lesions disappeared completely with about eight injections. Similar success was obtained with the boys in three to four weeks. It was found that a simple ointment such as ung. sulph. or ung. hydrarg., ineffective by itself, was helpful in clearing up the lesions. No drugs, excepting ordinary tonics, were administered orally. The boys were subsequently lost sight of, but the other case—the worst one—has been free from the disease for a period of nine years, and when last seen his skin looked perfectly normal.

A Contraceptive Museum

Dr. EVELYN FISHER (Barnes) writes: Readers of the report of Mr. Voge's address on contraception (*Journal*, January 7th, p. 16) may be interested to know of the existence of a contraceptive museum founded as far back as 1921. This is at the headquarters of the Constructive Birth Control Society, 108, Whitfield Street, Tottenham Court Road, and may be visited by doctors who are interested. It comprises a unique collection of appliances, and illustrates in a very practical manner the dangers to be avoided and the requirements to be sought after in the ideal contraceptive. In addition there is a most useful library, from which may be obtained books bearing on birth control in all its aspects—medical, social, religious, racial, etc.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, and 58 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 54 and 55.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 19.