

**Treatment of Mucous Colitis**

Dr. F. O. TAYLOR (Coldingham, Berwickshire) writes, in reply to Dr. Grosch's query (January 28th, p. 172): A daily washout of the large bowel with 1½ pints of water with 2 grains of potassium permanganate helps this condition in young women so much that I see no reason for doubting its efficacy in a young man. Careful estimation of the degree of ptosis of the stomach by succussion (or x ray if necessary) is essential, as all cases of this type suffer from vague "indigestion" from time to time, apparently quite apart from the colitis. With this "pointer" to the true cause of the condition non-residue diet is quite wrong. A mixture containing strychnine, ac. hydrochlor., and liq. arsenicalis helps to give back "tone" to the bowels. Unless ordinary diet (minus idiosyncrasies) can be taken, we have failed in treatment. Surely a man so young cannot have diverticula? Once confidence is established the potassium permanganate can be given in capsules.

**Income Tax***Assistant—"Rooms" and "Board and Lodging"*

"E. A. D." is an outdoor assistant paid at the rate of £300 per annum plus £104, stated originally to be for "rooms." The inspector of taxes states that if the £104 were for "board and lodging" rather than for "rooms" it would not be assessable. "E. A. D.'s" principals have agreed that the former would be the more correct description.

\*\* The terms of the agreement concerning "E. A. D.'s" appointment should be referred to as they really govern the case. If they provide for the £104 to be paid to the assistant then it is chargeable to income tax; if, on the other hand, the agreement provides for certain accommodation to be provided for the assistant and that is done at an expense of £104 without the money passing through the assistant's hands, then it would not seem to be assessable, and it would not appear to matter whether the accommodation is merely the "rooms" or includes "board" as well. However, if it can be made clear to the inspector that the additional emolument includes "board," and he accepts that as sufficient evidence of non-liability, "E. A. D." will have no need to go deeper into the matter.

*Sickness Insurance Policy*

"E. D." explains that his partners and himself contemplate taking out a sickness insurance policy in order to provide for the payment of a locumtenent if one should be required. Would the premiums be considered a professional expense?

\*\* No, but if it should be necessary to have a locumtenent the expense of providing his services can be charged against the gross earnings of the practice notwithstanding that it might be wholly or partially borne out of the insurance benefit.

*Child Allowance*

"A. V. C." has a son, recently qualified, who will be holding a resident hospital appointment on April 6th. He will receive neither pay nor board and lodging. Can "A. V. C." claim the "child allowance" for 1933-4 as hitherto?

\*\* In our opinion it will be impossible to contend successfully that the son will be "receiving full-time instruction at any . . . educational establishment" as from April 6th onwards. Consequently the claim would seem to be inadmissible for 1933-4.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****Post-Graduate Education**

Dr. V. COTTON-CORNWALL (London, N.W.3) writes: May I heartily endorse all the criticisms and suggestions made by Mr. Harold Balme in the *Journal* of January 21st. He says that he writes from an experience of five years ago, but all that he says is equally true of conditions at this moment, particularly as regards the lack of centralization, but above all with regard to the paucity of opportunity for practical work. Such opportunity is as easy to find as the proverbial needle. I hope that those responsible for the planning of the proposed post-graduate medical school will ponder on Mr. Balme's article and act on his suggestions. Furthermore, one hopes that they will make full use of the knowledge already acquired, by the Fellowship of Medicine and other bodies, as to post-graduate requirements.

**Rubber Nail Brushes**

Dr. F. A. E. SILCOCK (Leicester) writes: I have been using all-rubber nail brushes for the past six months, and in my opinion they are far superior, from a medical point of view, in every way to the ordinary type with stiff bristles set in a wooden base. They can be boiled or left in a wet state without detriment, the rubber bristles do not get fouled with debris, while they can be used for tender skins, etc., where the stiffer-bristled type might do harm. Both varieties cost practically the same.

**Bilateral Tubal Pregnancy: Rupture**

Dr. J. A. DAVIES (Towyn, Merioneth) writes: A primigravida, aged 28, was admitted to hospital on October 10th, 1932, with a history of amenorrhoea for two weeks, and severe occasional pain in the lower abdomen on the right side. There was no vaginal discharge. On the third day after admission she had a slight vaginal haemorrhage, followed by sudden collapse, with pallor, a quick pulse, shock, and all the signs of impending death; the temperature was normal. I at once decided to operate. The abdomen was opened by a three-inch incision over McBurney's point, and a large quantity of blood escaped. The right tube had ruptured, and the ovum had escaped into the peritoneal cavity. The tube was seized, clamped at both ends, and removed. The patient made a good recovery, and was up and about before the end of three weeks. On November 3rd, exactly three weeks after the first operation, she was again seized with acute pain, this time in the left lower abdomen, with all the previous symptoms of internal haemorrhage and collapse. At the second operation a four-inch mid-line incision was made. The left tube had ruptured, the ovum having escaped into the peritoneal cavity. I did not remove the tube on this occasion, but, after clearing the blood out, I inserted a large drainage tube, which was removed in twenty-four hours. The patient again made a good recovery, and was discharged from hospital on December 15th. I should be interested to hear if these cases are common.

**"A Simple Artificial Pneumothorax Needle"**

Dr. H. V. CANTOR (Nantwich) writes: In your issue of January 14th (p. 67) Dr. J. Wood Wilson mentions the use of an ordinary serum needle, with Record mount, for artificial pneumothorax refills. Reference is made to an "obvious disadvantage"—namely, lack of facility for cleaning a blocked needle. A cheap wire stylet for clearing the needle can be obtained. During the past few years I have frequently used an ordinary serum needle for refills, but always fitted on to a Peter Edwards stopcock or obdurator, which has a "Record-fitting nozzle." By opening the tap of the stopcock and pushing in the wire one can clear the needle without the least movement of the needle or stopcock. The Peter Edwards pneumothorax needle, which I prefer to all others, is very similar to a serum needle with a very short bevel, can be used for inductions as well as for refills, and can be obtained in different sizes. I agree with Dr. Wood Wilson that the use of the Record mount is convenient, expeditious, and cheap; but, in addition, it makes for still greater efficiency if used with a Peter Edwards stopcock. Whatever type of needle be used a short bevel is advisable.

**Periodicals Wanted**

Dr. R. D. McKELLAR HALL (a member of the Western Australian Branch now visiting England) inquires if any reader has copies of the following which he would be prepared to sell: *The British Journal of Surgery*, Nos. 1 to 26 inclusive; the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, all numbers up to December, 1931. His temporary address is 142, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool.

A warrant of appointment as cyder makers to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been conferred upon Wm. Gaymer and Son Ltd. of Attleborough, Norfolk.

**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, 54, and 55 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 39.