

"An Obscure Parasite"

Dr. JAMES B. SIMPSON (Golspie) writes: In reply to Dr. Maciver's query (March 4th, p. 397) with regard to "an obscure parasite," referred to in an old Gaelic book, I suggest that the parasite mentioned is the larva of the "bot-fly" or warble fly (*Oestrus*), which infrequently, but not rarely, attacks human beings, as well as cattle, deer, etc. The female bot-fly pierces the skin of the cheek or forehead and deposits an egg. As this develops the part swells and becomes inflamed, and from the small puncture in the centre the "bot" or larva escapes. A number of cases in which this has occurred have been reported in the various medical journals dating back to the fifties and sixties of last century. A full account of these was given a few years ago in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* by Mr. D. M. Greig, curator of the Royal College of Surgeons Museum in Edinburgh.

** An article on the larva of the warble fly as a human parasite, by Dr. F. W. Stile, appeared in the *British Medical Journal* of June 21st, 1924.

Heating Rooms

"M.B., M.Ch." writes: I think "F. J. L." (February 11th, p. 256) would be very satisfied with a "cozy stove," which can be used "open or closed" at will. It burns all night and requires about 25 per cent. less coal than the ordinary fire. It can be seen at 42, Berners Street, W. The Esse Vista is a similar stove, and can be seen at 11, Ludgate Circus, E.C.

Income Tax**Tax on Salary**

"H. H." is an Australian who came to this country over two years ago. In 1932 he completed a diploma course in radiology, and since April 5th, 1932, has earned £162 in locum fees. In January he obtained a whole-time appointment at a salary of £400 per annum, plus a proportion of private fees, payable quarterly. What is his liability to tax as a married man?

** Presumably "H. H." will receive a formal application to make a declaration of his income as soon as the authorities became aware of his appointment. His liability will be as follows:

Schedule D: £162 less 1/5 (earned income relief) =	£ 130
Schedule E: Proportion of £400 for period to April 5th, 1932, say, £85, plus proportion of fees for same period, say, £15 = £100, less earned income relief (1/5 of £100) = £20 =	80
	£210
Deduct personal allowance as a married man ...	150
	£ 60
Tax at 2s. 6d. in the £ ...	£7 10

The above would be subject to deductions for agents' fees and travelling expenses in connexion with the locum work, if not already deducted in arriving at the £162.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**First Successful Caesarean Section in England**

Dr. HERBERT R. SPENCER writes with reference to his letter published last week at page 390: Another correction, please. Chorley and Blackburn, where James Barlow lived, are in Lancashire, not Cheshire.

Colloidal Iodine

Dr. HASSAN BEY SHAHEEN, M.Ch. (Cairo), writes: I should like to bring before your readers the following observations, which I hope they will find useful. In the course of treating cases of chronic otitis sicca by intravenous injections of colloidal iodine, I found that the treatment is also efficacious in the following diseases: (1) rheumatism, sciatica, arthritis; (2) acne; (3) deafness and tinnitus; (4) parenchymatous goitre; (5) some eye diseases (vitreous opacities); and (6) chronic laryngitis. The effect in these diseases is wonderful. The symptoms and signs seem to respond immediately to this treatment. I have seen faces full of acne clear up after 50 c.cm. given intravenously, and cases of goitre diminish in size or disappear in no time. Dr. Dan McKenzie, to whom I communicated my method in 1928, read a paper at the Otolological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1929, entitled, "The symptomatic treatment of deafness," in which he says of the injections: "Curiously enough, it seems to produce no apparent general effects. There is no sign of shock—for example, rigor and pyrexia—

as with so many other intravenous remedies; there is no subsequent iodism, and we soon found that it was quite safe to let the patients return home immediately after each injection." I regret to say that I cannot concur with Dr. McKenzie's observations. My own experience of about 2,500 cases both at Kasr-el-Aini Hospital and in private practice show that, though no serious symptoms happen, yet in some cases rigor and pyrexia take place. These symptoms usually disappear on taking aspirin. The effect of this treatment on unrelievable deafness and tinnitus has been detailed in my previous papers on the subject. Its effect on some eye diseases has also been observed by myself and corroborated by my colleagues in the ophthalmological section of the hospital, where the treatment is now, I understand, used on a large scale.

Pepys's Urticaria

Dr. G. M. WAUCHOPE (Hove) writes: Sir D'Arcy Power's most interesting account of the medical history of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Pepys (*Journal*, February 25th, p. 325) tempts me to recall Pepys's description of an attack of urticaria which overtook him on Sunday, February 8th, 1663, when he was walking in the park, "it being a very great frost."

"Whether the wind and the cold did cause it or no I know not, but having been this day or two mightily troubled with an itching all over my body which I took to be a louse or two that might bite me, I found this afternoon that all my body is inflamed, and my face in a sad redness and swelling and pimpled, so that I was before we had done walking not only sick but ashamed of myself to see myself so changed in my countenance, so that after we had thus talked we parted; ... At last got home and to bed presently, and had a very bad night of it, in great pain in my stomach, and in great fever.

"9th. Could not rise and go to the Duke as I should have done, but keep my bed and by the Apothecary's advice I am to sweat soundly, it being some disorder given the blood, and by what I know not, unless it be by my late quantities of Dantzic-girkins that I have eaten. Sir J. Minnes advises me to the same thing but would not have me take anything from the apothecary, but from him, his Venice treacle being better, which I did consent to and fell into a great sweat; and about 10 or 11 o'clock came out of it, and slept pretty well."

Spastic Intestine

Dr. R. CHALMERS (Darlington), in a letter on this subject, writes: Dr. Eve's paper in the *Journal* of March 4th (p. 364) on disordered regulation of traffic in the gut is opportune, because of the prevalence at the present time of spastic conditions of the gut. Commonly the splenic flexure is dilated, raising the left leaf of the diaphragm and frequently resulting in dyspnoea, cardiac disability, and shoulder girdle neuralgias. In some patients one sees evidence of the disturbed vegetative nervous system changing from one region to another.

Contraceptive Technique

We are asked to state that lectures and demonstrations in contraceptive methods are given to medical students at the headquarters of the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics, at 153A, East Street, Walworth Road, S.E.17. Readers wishing for further particulars are invited to write to the secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Fuller.

The British Legion

The annual report of the British Legion for the twelve months ending September, 1932, reveals a measurable advance in the value of the unemployment bureaux, despite the continued depression. Considerable benefit has been derived as the result of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance that at least 50 per cent. of a disability pension should be ignored when considering applications for transitional payment and for outdoor relief. The British Legion Village at Aylesford, Kent, had a most successful year, an increased number of patients being admitted and discharged after effective treatment. The new bronchoscope has proved to be very useful, and it is proposed to issue during the current year a medical report on the results obtained as regards treatment and diagnosis. An extension of the principle of producing x-ray photographs from negative films has been greatly appreciated by tuberculosis officers in connexion with the transference to their supervision of discharged patients.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 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 91.