

**Phlebitis after Childbirth**

"G. N. W." (Sussex) writes: I would be very grateful if anyone could suggest treatment for a woman who, since the birth of her child two years ago, has had what appears to be continual phlebitis of both long saphenous veins. At present only that portion of the vein which is situated in the lower third of the leg is involved. The vein can be felt as a hard and very painful cord, and the patient complains of cramp-like pains and a perpetual throb and ache. Elastoplast bandages, crêpe bandages, and applications of the usual sort have been useless. Of course, when the whole vein is involved (as it is occasionally) the patient is kept in bed, but at present she is up and about.

**Income Tax****Cost of Locumtenent: Deduction**

"OXON" had to employ a locumtenent owing to illness. He received £42 towards the total cost from an insurance company; premiums on the policy had not been treated as admissible expenses for income tax purposes.

\*\* He can deduct the whole cost—that is, not only the amount paid to the locumtenent in cash, but also the cost of his board. The amount received from the insurance company can be ignored in view of the fact that no allowance has been received for payment of the premiums.

**Panel Committee Medical Charity**

"S. C." explains that for the past three years a sum of money has been set aside by his Panel Committee. The accumulation has been invested in the names of three members "as trustees, and they can only apply the interest at the direction of the full committee," but there is no special deed of trust. Is the income of the fund exempt from tax?

\*\* Yes, provided it can be shown (a) that the income is held by a "body of persons or trust established for charitable purposes only," and (b) that the income in respect of which relief is claimed is "applied to charitable purposes only." The claim should be made to the Chief Inspector of Taxes, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, S.E. If the claim is not valid the untaxed interest received will be liable to assessment.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****Memorial to Dr. Alfred Eichholz**

We have received for publication the following letter signed by Lord Charnwood, president, National Institute for the Deaf; the Duke of Montrose, vice-president, National Institute for the Deaf, and president, Scottish Association for the Deaf; Lord Blanesburgh, chairman, Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind; and Sir Beachcroft Towse, chairman, National Institute for the Blind: It has been suggested that a memorial should be raised to the memory of the late Dr. Alfred Eichholz, that remarkable man whose work, at the Board of Education, for handicapped children, and especially the blind and deaf, won him the esteem and affection of a host of friends throughout the country. May we ask you, Sir, for space to make this suggestion known, since there must be many who would be glad to take a part, however small, in such a memorial? Those who wish to subscribe should send their contributions to Mr. W. McG. Eagar, National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W.1, or to Mr. A. J. Story, National Institute for the Deaf, 2, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1, the honorary treasurers of a small committee which has been set up to carry out the proposal, and of which we are members. The sum raised in response to this appeal will be used as an endowment for the benefit of the blind and deaf, to whose welfare Dr. Eichholz in his life made so notable a contribution.

**First Successful Caesarean Section in England**

Dr. HERBERT R. SPENCER writes: In reply to Dr. Hayes Smith's letter may I say that the account of James Barlow's operation was communicated to the Medical Association by his contemporary Dr. Haighton, the distinguished lecturer on midwifery at Guy's Hospital, as a case of Caesarean section, which, according to Barlow's account, it undoubtedly was: "The integuments and the left rectus muscle being cut through, a small opening was made through the peritoneum at the upper part, and, by means of a probe-pointed bistoury, this membrane was dilated to the same extent as the external parts. The uterus was now exposed to view, and an incision, of the same length, was continued through it. The child presented with its breech,

and was extracted through the artificial opening," etc. The suspicions of Dr. John Hull of Manchester (who was not present at the operation) that Barlow, his "former pupil," mistook the membranes or the peritoneum for the uterus, and the statements of Mr. Hawarden (who, as will be seen, only "assisted" in the French sense of the word) cannot be held to invalidate Barlow's account. There were two Hawardens concerned in the case: the first, who came from Wigan, owing to the well-known danger of the operation, "declined taking any part in it, and he returned home." The other was the brother of the first, practised at Blackrod, and "assisted" at the operation. In his *Essays in Surgery and Midwifery* (1822), James Barlow, in republishing the case, adds the following note:

"It may be requisite to state that, at the commencement of the operation, Mr. Hawarden was suddenly seized with a violent fit of syncope, which wholly incapacitated him from attending to the steps of the operation, and, having no other professional person present, I was obliged to be assisted by a female attendant."

**Tuberculosis Dispensaries**

The honorary secretary of the Paddington Tuberculosis Dispensary writes: I would be grateful if you could find space to correct a mistake which, through no fault of your reporter, has appeared in your issue of March 4th (p. 384). At the opening of the Theatrical Loan Exhibition at Dudley House it was said that Paddington Tuberculosis Dispensary, opened in 1909, was the first tuberculosis dispensary in England, which is true. Unfortunately, it was also said that Paddington Tuberculosis Dispensary and the Royal Victoria Dispensary, Edinburgh, competed for the honour of being the pioneer dispensary. This is impossible, as the Royal Victoria Dispensary, created by Sir Robert Philip, was opened in 1887 and was the first tuberculosis dispensary in the world. Every other tuberculosis dispensary, whether its founders choose to acknowledge it or not, is a copy of that original. Paddington Tuberculosis Dispensary was modelled on it, and almost every document we have issued contains an acknowledgement of our indebtedness. Sir Robert Philip is one of our vice-presidents, and we owe much to his kindness and his wise and helpful advice.

**Treatment of Influenza**

Dr. RICHARD KERRY (Montreal) writes: Your statistics on influenza (February 4th, p. 194) make one wonder how far this great economic loss and attendant distressing death rate are necessary. For many years I had recurring attacks of influenza, acquired in the out-patient department of the hospital. Since instituting treatment fifteen years ago I have had one attack, due to neglect, which aborted promptly when treatment was resumed. The method is simple. One drachm of 4 per cent. solution of carbolic acid is diluted with eight of warm water and taken up in a bulb syringe. With the head well thrown back the nasopharynx is filled with the fluid, which is retained for thirty seconds or more. The head is then lowered, the fluid allowed to run out, and the nose blown freely to remove mucus without closing the nostrils. The procedure is then repeated, the ounce of fluid being enough to fill the space twice. As is often the case in treatment, the choice of the remedy seems to be of less importance than the method of using it. The nasopharynx appears to be the point of entrance of influenza, and while local treatment will not be sufficient for late constitutional symptoms it will in the great majority of cases abort the disease and prevent them from occurring.

**A Warning**

Dr. JAMES G. M. HAMILTON (Edinburgh) writes: Some unknown person appears to have used my name recently to obtain money under false pretences in Blackpool. He obtained money for tickets for last Saturday's international Rugby match here, and told the buyer to call on "Dr. Hamilton" at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, for the tickets.

We are asked to say that any member of the Association may obtain a free copy each month of *L'Orientation Médicale*, a medico-literary review published in Paris, by applying to the Continental Laboratories, 30, Marsham Street, London, S.W.1.

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 45, 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 111.