

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Threadworms

"GLEVUM" would be glad of advice how best to treat threadworms in an adolescent. Is quassia wood in powder ever given internally?

#### Treatment of Bacilluria

Dr. G. A. GARRY SIMPSON (London, W.2) would be glad to learn of the experience of others in the treatment of bacilluria with preparations of lactic acid bacilli.

#### Skull Measurements

Dr. KATHLEEN VAUGHAN (London, W.) writes: What is the average measurement in adult man of the *suboccipitobregmatic* circumference of the skull? It varies considerably among civilized people (greater difference in size among their heads than among native tribes).

#### Oysters, Calories, and Food Prices

Professor J. A. NIXON writes with reference to Dr. Edward Cross's note (January 20th, p. 131) to say that Professor Dodd's figures are correct—namely, 88 calories for one dozen oysters. Professor Nixon wishes also to amend his statement of what 1s. will buy: 12 oz. butter yields 360 grams of fat, not 300; and 3,240 calories, not 3,600. In Bristol, he adds, 1s. would buy 1 lb. of beef without bone.

#### Income Tax

##### Change in Practice—Cash Basis

"C. R. C." disposed of his share in a partnership (A) as from October 31st, 1933, and acquired a share in a smaller practice (B) as from November 16th, 1933. He is told that either he must pay tax on the money received from his old practice after he left it or must state the amount of the debts due to that practice as at January 1st, 1932, and December 31st, 1932—figures which it is now very difficult to ascertain. Other points mentioned by "C. R. C." will be apparent from the answer below.

\*\* It is not stated whether an election has been made by the past and present members of partnership A to have the practice regarded as having ceased and been restarted at October 31st, 1933. If it has, the revenue authorities are entitled to have evidence of the correct amount of the earnings for the year and nine months subsequent to January 1st, 1932, and the cash basis (which is correct in the long run but not necessarily over a short period) is not really appropriate. If, however, such an election has not been made—the more usual course—"C. R. C." is merely liable to account for tax on half of his share of the full partnership assessment on A. In neither case is he liable to account for tax on post-October, 1933, receipts as such. As accounts in firm B are usually made up to March 31st, nothing would be gained by changing the date.

The tax demanded as payable on January, 1934, is due for the year ending April 5th, 1934, but is normally calculated according to the income of the year 1932—or the year to March 31st, 1933.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Treatment of Chilblains

"R. C." writes: As there has been much correspondence about chilblains in your columns these observations on one of my cases may be appreciated. The patient, a female, aged 27, with marked pes cavus in her right leg, has for many years suffered during each winter from a large chilblain on the back of the lower third of her right leg. The chilblain has always occupied an area of several square inches, where the skin is blue and cold, and there is local oedema. At times, pruritus has been severe. The chilblain has been "broken" in some previous winters. The left leg is quite normal; there are no varicose veins. Her job is sedentary, but she gets abundant exercise—cycling, etc.—at week-ends. Last winter I treated her with kalzana, calcium lactate, and cod-liver oil. Iodex was rubbed in locally. I also gave the usual hygienic instructions about thicker stockings, etc. This treatment was practically ineffective. This winter I treated her by covering the area with elastic adhesive bandage (not encircling the leg), the strips being applied under tension to reduce the oedema. No internal treatment was given at all, and the dressing was left on for a month unchanged. During this period there was no pruritus, and on removal of the dressing the condition was improved. The patient is completely satisfied with the treatment, and I have put on another similar dressing.

#### Childbirth at 50 Years of Age

Dr. E. L. BUNTING (Worcester) writes: The following note of a case of childbirth at the age of 50½ years may be of interest. Mrs. P., born on July 18th, 1873, married for twenty-eight years, and having two daughters, aged 26 and 24 respectively, was delivered by me of a bonny male child, weighing 11 lb., on December 1st, 1923. The labour lasted thirty-six hours on account of early rupture of the membranes, and delivery was completed by low forceps. I took some trouble to verify the patient's age, and although this was not entered in the register of births for the district where she was born, I wrote to the vicar of the parish, who replied as follows: "The lady was baptised with her brother on January 4th, 1874. Date of her birth is not given. Double christening is in favour of the child being some months old at baptism. It looks as if the family has been looked up by a visitor from the church, and the two children brought to be christened together. This often happens." I also wrote to the patient's eldest brother, who replied as follows: "My sister was born July 18th, 1873. There is an entry in the family Bible, from which I have taken it to forward to you." I think this can be regarded as pretty conclusive evidence as to the patient's age, and I can say her appearance was that of a woman over 50.

#### Memorial to Philip Edward Glynn

The parents and sisters of the late Philip Edward Glynn, F.R.C.S., resident orthopaedic officer at Leeds General Infirmary, ask the hospitality of these columns to express their deep gratitude to his friends, colleagues, and patients at Leeds and elsewhere, who joined with them in endowing a child's cot in the Orthopaedic Department of Leeds General Infirmary in affectionate remembrance of him. The cot was dedicated by the Rev. P. D. Robbins, A.F.C., on January 12th.

A booklet, *Modern Cooking Methods in Modern Hospitals*, has been issued by the British Commercial Gas Association, and copies can be obtained free from the secretary of the association, 28, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

A folder, giving brief particulars of the Hot Springs, Bath, has been issued for the use of the medical profession, and copies may be had from Mr. John Hatton, the Spa director, at the Pump Room.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 39, 40, 41, 44, 45, and 46 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 42 and 43.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 35.