

Threadworms

Dr. FRANCIS JOHNSTON (Oxtón, Birkenhead) writes: I have found garlic oil very useful in ridding adults of threadworms. The oil is put up in capsules by Allen and Hanburys. I believe that it is not wholly for the sake of the flavouring that garlic is so popular in Continental kitchens. In the salad it may be an effective anthelmintic.

Dr. E. C. MUDIE (Glasgow) writes in reply to the query by "Glevum" (January 27th, p. 178): There is no intestinal parasite that will persist on a diet in which raw garlic is incorporated. As with all other methods of treating worms, meat and other purine-containing foods should be strictly limited, and an abundance of raw fruit and conservatively cooked vegetables should be taken with plain wholemeal bread, and plenty of plain water between meals. The garlic should be chopped up finely, about two or three "cloves" or divisions, so that they could be swallowed without chewing. This should be done at the two largest meals of the day. No purgatives are necessary unless the patient be habitually constipated, when a large dose of salts in a pint of warm water, fasting, should be taken each morning. In the case of threadworms I generally help matters by giving a quart enema (for an adult) in which are dissolved two drachms of common salt and half an ounce of turpentine: retain ten minutes. By the use of garlic I cured a woman of *Ascaris lumbricoides* in thirty-six hours, during which time she passed a male worm 13½ inches long and a female with a bunch of newly hatched young, which were uncountable. I might add that garlic has many other therapeutic uses besides that of a vermifuge. It is a pity the intolerable odour renders it impracticable for common use as an article of dietary in this country.

"X" (Kew) writes: I have personally found the treatment for threadworms given in the *Journal* of August 22nd, 1931 (p. 336), to be the only efficacious one.

** The treatment referred to is described in the course of an article by Colonel W. P. Macarthur, entitled "Pruritus Ani." Briefly, it consists of (1) four-ounce rectal injections of saline solution (two ounces of salt to a pint), and (2) the use of two grains of santonin and half an ounce of calomel by mouth. Full details are given in the article.

Income Tax**Subletting of Portion of House Unfurnished**

"C.'s" house is assessed to income tax, Schedule A, on a net value of £90; he sublets a portion, for which he receives a rent of £100. Does the Schedule A assessment cover his full liability to tax?

** Schedule A deals with income from property, and if the £100 is derived only from the consideration that a right of occupancy of a part of the property is given, then no part of the rent can be assessed except as part of the Schedule A assessment on the property as a whole. This principle was made clear in a fairly recent case, usually quoted as the Salisbury House case. *Prima facie*, therefore, the assessment of £90 in "C.'s" case covers his full liability. If, however, other considerations enter into the question—for example, that "C." provides some services in connexion with the letting, or that the £100 includes some annual sum in the nature of a payment for goodwill, there may be further liability, either direct on "C." under Schedule D, or indirectly through deduction of tax by "C.'s" tenant.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Herpes and Varicella**

Dr. J. F. P. FORSTER (Porlock) writes: The correspondence in the *British Medical Journal* on the above subject, and especially Dr. A. H. Spicer's letter (December 30th, 1933), prompts me to record an almost similar case in my practice last November. A man, aged 47, came to me with a very severe attack of herpes over the spine of the right scapula, inner aspect of arm and forearm, and front of chest. He said he first noticed it two days previously. Exactly eleven days afterwards I was called to see his daughter (aged 10), who was rapidly developing a typical attack of varicella. The father had definitely had varicella in childhood.

Prescription of Hypnotic Drugs: A Suggestion

"PHARMACIST" writes from Cornwall: In view of the widespread publicity given to recent controversies over hypnotic drugs, may I offer a simple suggestion to those medical men who find these drugs of use in practice. Frequently a small quantity of drug (say, "Dial, tablets 20") is ordered on a prescription. Unfortunately the prescription can be taken again and again to a chemist, and an unlimited supply of the tablets obtained. The chemist has the right in law to do this, providing, of course, that a record is kept of each transaction. Thus the patient goes on taking these drugs long after medical supervision has stopped, and usually takes far too much. It must be admitted that there is distinct danger in this state of affairs. The remedy is this. The doctor should write at the bottom of each prescription, "Not to be repeated," or "Kindly retain script." Either of these injunctions will be regarded by the chemist, unless he is entirely devoid of professional responsibility (I hope all good practitioners avoid such). I think it will be found that very few chemists will supply hypnotics without taking medical advice, even though they have a perfect right to do so under the Poisons and Pharmacy Acts (Part I).

Prevention of Colds in Schools

Dr. R. W. P. HALL (Windermere) writes: At the beginning of last term I had a talk with the head master of a boy's preparatory school which I attended, with regard to making a serious effort to keep the school clear of colds and influenza. We decided to exploit the antiseptic properties of the onion, and arrangements were made to give the boys one dessertspoonful of onion syrup night and morning throughout the term. The results speak for themselves. There were no cases of colds, coughs, or influenza among the whole-time boarders who were given the syrup regularly. On two occasions week-end boarders came back on the Monday with streaming colds, which went no further among the boys, but attacked two members of the teaching staff, who had not taken the syrup. On another occasion a visitor to the school saw two or three of the boys in a small room two hours previous to going to bed with influenza.

The Professional Classes Aid Council

The Professional Classes Aid Council exists to relieve distress among the professional and other highly educated classes. Founded in the emergency times of October, 1914, its work did not end with the war, and it continues to exercise its kindly functions of relieving immediate emergencies and enabling its beneficiaries to bridge over temporary difficulties while in the search for permanent employment. In its last annual report, which covers the twelve months ending April 30th, 1933, it is stated that expenditure on relief has increased by over £2,000, while the contributions have diminished by £600. Among those who received assistance were medical practitioners, dentists, veterinary surgeons, and officers of the Services and the Mercantile Marine. Details are given in the report of various cases relieved. Many students, including some for the medical profession, are being assisted to proceed with their training. In some cases the grants take the form of a loan which is repayable. The British Medical Association is represented on the council by its Treasurer, Mr. N. Bishop Harman, F.R.C.S., and Lord Dawson of Penn is one of the patrons.

Book-keeping for the G.P.

In these columns on December 9th last we published a letter from Dr. W. H. Rowthorn of Sheffield on the subject of book-keeping for the general practitioner, in which he drew attention to his own simple method, the details of which were published in the *Journal* many years ago. We have now received from Dr. Rowthorn a small brochure setting forth the method he has devised. The general scheme is substantially the same as the earlier one, its success in application resting chiefly on the use of "slips," which take the place of day-book, prescription book, and waiting list. The only other "books" required are an ordinary double-entry ledger and a cash-book. The brochure may be obtained direct from Dr. Rowthorn, 52, Brocco Bank, Sheffield, 11, price 5s.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 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 55.