

Chronic Gonococcal Infection

Dr. J. SANDISON-CRABBE (Birmingham) writes in answer to "Perplexed": This is no doubt a case of chronic prostatic infection. I have cleared up more than a dozen cases with diathermy to the prostate, after Cumberbatch's method. Some of these have been of fifteen years' standing. "Perplexed" should read Cumberbatch and Robinson's book *Treatment of Gonococcal Infection by Diathermy*.

Pruritus Ani

"M. O." writes: The discussion in your columns prompts me to call attention to the fact that many people suffer from a minor form of this complaint, which is undoubtedly due to an incorrect diet, disappears on correction of this, and reappears on resumption of the causative foods. The latter is especially prone to occur during a temporary absence from home. I have not been able to satisfy myself fully whether this is merely an avoidance of a constipating diet or whether there is some other factor—for example, the relative acidity or alkalinity of the faeces or some change in their bacterial composition dependent on the diet. I strongly suspect that it is not merely a matter of constipation, but would like enlightenment on this point if any of your readers are in a position to give it. In my personal experience bread, and especially new bread, is the most potent cause of pruritus of this kind, and I have found that the substitution of potatoes and the inclusion of fresh fruit and vegetables brings about a complete disappearance of the discomfort. An excess of meat also seems to produce pruritus, but not to the same extent as bread and puddings, etc., made of flour. The substitution of wholemeal bread does not, I think, make any difference.

Calot's Solution Formula

"S. A. D. M." writes with reference to "G. B.'s" inquiry: The solution consists of the following: guaiacol, 1 gram; creosote, 5 grams; ether, 30 c.cm.; iodoform, 10 grams; olive oil, 70 c.cm. This formula is that published in the *Medical Journal and Record* (October 4th, 1933). Instructions should be given to the chemist that before adding ether the mixture should be gradually heated in olive oil until the iodoform is completely dissolved and the mixture clear. This is the same as in Martindale's *Extra Pharmacopoeia*, except that in it liquid paraffin is used instead of olive oil; most might prefer to use the former.

Income Tax**Deduction for Rental Value**

"J. L." inquires what small book can be recommended dealing with income tax, and what he should deduct for rental value of the house he owns.

** A useful little book is *Income Tax and the Professional Man*, published at 4s. 6d. by Crosby, Lockwood and Son, Stationer's Hall Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. It is difficult to advise on the proportion of rent, or rental value, which should be deducted as a professional expense; so much depends on the ratio of professional to private use. As a rough guide we may perhaps say that where there are a waiting and a consulting room on the ground floor, and a garage used mainly for professional purposes, a common allowance would be one-half; where the professional use is less than normal possibly one-third would be fair. Deductions for rates (and, frequently, lighting and heating costs) would follow the same ratio.

Motor Expenses: Surgery away from Residence

"ROSARINA" uses a car (a) for travelling to his surgery—about a mile from his residence, (b) visiting hospitals as a visiting surgeon, and (c) to a slight extent for visiting patients. Do these count as professional purposes, and should he claim the depreciation allowance?

** Items (b) and (c) are undoubtedly "professional"; (a) is open to argument, and in strictness may be disallowable, but the authorities seldom seem to object where there is a reasonable amount of clear professional use. Depreciation should be claimed, and when the car is renewed a claim for "obsolescence" allowance should be made—that is, for the deduction of the loss on sale less the amount of depreciation allowance received.

New Proprietorship—Cash Basis

"S. W." took over his present practice on January 1st, 1933, but took over no book debts. On a cash basis—which was accepted for his previous practice—his profits for 1933 would be £470, but he is told that "for the first three years he must pay tax on every book debt at full value." The 1933 profits on that basis amount to £798.

** Tax is payable on profits whether they have been received in cash or are still outstanding as debts. "S. W.," however, is entitled to value those debts individually, and can claim to deduct, as a "bad debts reserve," the excess of the nominal or gross amount of the debts over their fair value. This applies for three years, after which the Revenue authorities are usually prepared to assume that the cash receipts of the year will approximate close enough to the value of the year's bookings to serve as a reliable index of the gross income of the practice. It is presumed that he is not paying tax on delayed receipts from his former practice.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Greenstick Fracture in a Male aged 21**

Dr. R. SALISBURY WOODS, F.R.C.S. (Cambridge), writes: I think this case may be of some interest, and I should be glad to hear whether many of your readers have seen similar fractures in an adult. An undergraduate aged 21½ years fell heavily on the point of his right shoulder in tackling another man, who fell on top of him. There was an audible "crack" and he experienced severe pain in the region of the clavicle and went off the field. I saw him that evening, when the clavicle presented an exaggerated bowing and extreme tenderness about the middle, but no swelling of the soft parts. It seemed to me that he must have a greenstick fracture, but I must confess that when I sent him for x-ray examination I felt that my diagnosis might be corrected. However, the skiagram confirmed the diagnosis, there being a definite split in the upper surface, and no solution of continuity of the lower.

British Industries House

The proposal to establish a permanent medical exhibition at British Industries House, Marble Arch, W., referred to on February 17th (p. 294), has met with generous support from manufacturers throughout the kingdom. The whole of the third floor, comprising some 9,000 square feet, has been allocated to the medical section, and this space has been arranged to accommodate 150 exhibitors. Up to the present time inquiries from British manufacturers regarding the allocation of space have been received from eighty-four different firms. We are informed by the chairman of the Advisory Council, Dr. Alfred Cox, that the eighty-four firms comprise: manufacturing chemists, 21; dental, 5; hospital equipment, 7; medico-electric, 3; medicinal foods, 5; opticians, 12; surgical appliances, 9; surgical dressings, 3; surgical instruments, 6; toilet requisites, 4; x-ray apparatus, 2; printers and publishers, 7. The club premises will soon be open, and will be available for the use of visitors in advance of the formal opening of British Industries House. Any doctor, on presentation of his card, will have free access, both to the section and to the club, and the same facilities apply to authorized representatives of nursing homes and similar institutions in this country and over-seas.

Broadcasting and Contraceptives

Dr. H. D. BISHOP (medical officer of health for Guernsey) writes under date February 19th: The B.B.C. last week broadcast a résumé of the discussion upon the Bill which Lord Dawson sponsored in the House of Lords, for regulating the sale of contraceptives. This broadcast must have been heard by many thousands of children and adolescents, whose natural curiosity was aroused, and who asked their grown-ups what contraceptives were. Unfortunately nowadays the days of innocence are short enough, and although agreeing that mere ignorance is not always innocence, even the most cynical of us must desire that children should be protected from a premature knowledge of sexual matters until it is necessary that they should be enlightened upon them. I cannot believe that such a broadcast would not be severely condemned by an overwhelming majority of the members of the British Medical Association, and if this be so I venture to hope that its leaders may see fit to inform the B.B.C. that in such matters we have the right to expect something better from it.

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, 52, 53, and 56 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 54 and 55.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 84.