

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Vomiting after Appendicectomy

"PERPLEXED" (Paisley) writes: A lady patient of mine, aged 30 years, unmarried, had her appendix removed about two years ago owing to persistent right iliac pain. At the operation the organ was found to be definitely diseased, being abnormally long, thickened, and kinked in places. The operation has certainly relieved her of all pain, but soon afterwards she began to vomit *during* every meal, and has done so ever since, with the result that she is now much underweight. Consequently, she is unable to take a meal in public, or leave her own home on holiday. X-ray examination of the abdomen by a series of plates has failed to reveal anything abnormal, and medicines have afforded her no relief whatever. She has been seen by two consultants, from whose treatment she has derived no benefit at all. Any suggestions will be much appreciated.

Cracked Tongue

"CEYLON PRACTITIONER" asks for suggestions in the treatment of a man of about 28 years with cracks on his tongue of over seven years' duration. The cracks are painful. He complains of burning sensations at the pit of the stomach, and of flatulence. The bowels are regular, and the stools, to the naked eye, are not abnormal—nothing in the shape of typical sprue stools. No history of syphilis. There are so far no signs or symptoms characteristic of sprue, and the patient, apart from the condition mentioned, is in good health and attending to his professional duties. He has had various treatments, such as parathyroid extract and calcium, milk diet and fruits, liver treatment, ventriculin, and fermented toddy (a local preparation of yeast), but none of them rid him completely of his condition. Whenever it becomes worse he goes on liver diet, which leads to improvement but does not cure. No analysis of gastric contents or biochemical examination of stools has been made, because laboratory facilities are not available.

Tobacco Habit

"X Y Z" writes: Can any of your readers suggest a remedy for excessive smoking? My patient is a young man of 23, and I have tried everything I can think of.

Income Tax

Various Deductions

"JODDLES" inquires with regard to some points which will be sufficiently clear from the following reply.

*. Subscriptions to the B.M.A. or a medical defence society are allowable expenses, whether incurred on behalf of the principal or assistant. Interest payable on loan—for example, to an insurance company—is not deductible; the payer has the benefit of deducting the tax from the interest at the time of payment. If, however, the interest is paid to a bank, tax cannot be deducted, and the interest is an allowable expense. If the practitioner's wife did, in fact, assist in the work of the practice, and did receive "a

salary of £50 per annum" for so doing, that sum can be claimed as a professional expense. If the claim was not made when the return was made it can be claimed later on the ground of "an error or mistake" in the return; but the fact that it was not made at the proper time may raise some question as to whether the payment was a professional and not a domestic one.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Lumbago and Quinine

Lieut.-Colonel CHARLES H. BARBER, I.M.S. (ret.) (Florence), writes: No mention is made, in the books I have at hand, of the use of quinine in lumbago, and I have no knowledge of its use by other medical men, so that it seems worth while to draw attention to its value. In India, with the thought at the back of my mind of a possible malarial origin of the trouble, I have on occasion treated cases by the oral administration of 15 or 20 grains of quinine hydrochloride per diem and have found it to act surprisingly well. Recently, after a month's suffering and after using aspirin and the usual remedies with no effect, I tried quinine on myself, with the result that within a few hours I was relieved, and in four days practically free of pain and disability, although other conditions were unchanged. I may add that I suffered from lumbago long before I went to India, and also that whilst there I had malaria only very slightly and on rare occasions.

Herpes and Varicella

Dr. R. WHITTAKER (Weymouth and District Hospital) writes: In connexion with the recent correspondence about the relation of herpes zoster to varicella, a household I attended as locumtenent in the Isle of Man may be of interest. I was originally called to see the father, a man of about 40, with severe herpes of the left trigeminal region and geniculate herpes on the same side. Four days after I first saw him his two children developed typical varicella, and on the sixth day I found he had it himself, as well as the herpes. The chicken-pox rash cleared up very quickly, but the herpes was still very marked when I last saw him, a fortnight after my first visit.

Road Dangers

Dr. GEORGE JONES (London, S.E.13) writes: If something is not done, and that very soon, the roads will be completely blocked up, and neither pedestrian nor motorist, quick drivers or slow, will be able to use them safely or at all, except with great loss of time. Traffic blocks, even in suburban London, are becoming worse and worse. They seem to be due largely to lorries of ever-increasing size, with trailers behind them, and to motor coaches, whose length rather than breadth seems excessive. I have seen lorries whose bodies extended a good foot over the wheels passing quite close to the edge of the pavement. It is not needful to send tons and tons of bricks or paving stones by road, and passengers can be carried quite easily by rail, especially from long distances. Parliament imposed stringent conditions on the railways: if it does not do something more for all classes of road users we shall find ourselves worse and worse off year by year.

Corrigendum

GLAXO LABORATORIES (London, N.W.1) ask permission to correct a mistake which occurred in their advertisement of March 3rd. The mistake (for which they accept sole responsibility) occurred in the last paragraph but one of the second column of their advertisement. "Sunshine Glaxo is enriched by 200 and Full Cream Glaxo by 165 international units of this essential body-building anti-rachitic factor" should read: "Sunshine Glaxo is enriched by 200 and Full Cream Glaxo by 165 international units, per pint reconstituted, of this," etc.

The British Drug Houses Ltd. have just issued a priced catalogue of preparations for parenteral administration, arranged in alphabetical order. Practitioners can obtain a copy free of charge on application to this firm, Graham Street, City Road, London, N.1.

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, 42, 43, and 46 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44 and 45.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 96.