

and that right is limited to what tax *they* have suffered. "Q" should therefore deduct tax when paying the annuities, and the children can claim repayment of the tax so deducted. If tax has not so far been deducted, an adjustment should be made when the next payment falls due, or earlier if possible. A useful little book is *Income Tax and the Professional Man*, published at 4s. 6d. by Crosby, Lockwood and Son, Stationers' Hall Court, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Use of Quinine in Normal Labour

Dr. L. B. SHEINKIN (Highbury Hill, N.5) writes: Dr. A. G. Hawthorne English's letter (January 6th, p. 35) prompts me to relate my personal experience. On reading Mr. Douglas Mitchell's letter (July 15th, 1933, p. 126) I decided to try his method, and for this purpose I selected two young normal primigravidae, whose pregnancies were normal in every respect. They were given tablets of quin. sulph., 5 grains, t.d.s., p.c., for their last four to five months of pregnancy. The results and advantages of this treatment, however, were not obvious. In both cases the duration of labour was not shortened and no improved uterine functions were noted. In fact, the duration of labour was rather prolonged and the uterine contractions were weak and infrequent, resembling a slight degree of uterine inertia, which had to be counteracted by pituitrin injections. In one of these two cases so tedious and slow were the uterine contractions, even after pituitrin injections, that forceps had to be applied (after twenty-four hours in labour). In each case the puerperium was normal.

#### All in the Day's Work

Details have now reached this country, through the columns of the *Shanghai Times*, of the kidnapping and escape from death of Dr. R. Cecil Robertson, head of the division of pathology and bacteriology of the Henry Lester Institute of Medical Research, Shanghai, and a member of the British Medical Association. On January 31st Dr. Robertson left his home in his car for the institute with his chauffeur and the 8-year-old son of his Chinese cook, who was to be vaccinated that day. A wheelbarrow, pushed suddenly in front of his car, brought it to a standstill, whereupon four Chinese in black gowns jumped into it, ejected the chauffeur, and drove off swiftly towards Chinese territory. Dr. Robertson put up a fierce fight, during which he was twice shot at; appeals for help to Chinese police and bystanders were ignored. Dr. Robertson explained who he was, and his captors appeared surprised and disappointed, but the car continued its course. Resuming the struggle, one of the Chinese was wounded in the hand by his own revolver, the speed of the car slackened, and Dr. Robertson forced open the car door and jumped out, holding the boy. His captors made no further attack upon him, but drove off rapidly and escaped. Dr. Robertson, who is president of the Shanghai Medical Society, owed his life to the failure of a revolver to fire when in contact with his head. He ascribes the incident to an error on the part of the gangsters, who had presumably proposed to carry off a wealthy Chinese, but mistook the car. He was twice wounded in the war in France, and was awarded the M.C. He went out to Shanghai in 1925, and was at first pathologist to the Shanghai Municipal Council, joining the Henry Lester Institute in 1929.

#### History of Nitrous Oxide Anaesthesia

With reference to Mr. H. E. G. Boyle's paper "Nitrous Oxide: History and Development," published in the *Journal* of January 27th (p. 153), Mr. Eric Oscroft, managing director of Condensed Gas Co., Ltd., Manchester, has sent us an agreement dated April 27th, 1883, which was entered into between the founder of his firm, Mr. J. F. Blennerhasset, and a Manchester dentist, Mr. J. H. Parkinson, for the sale and delivery of N<sub>2</sub>O gas, and appliances for delivering and administering it, within the London area. "As a matter of historical interest it is in a way complementary to some of the dates given in the above-mentioned paper, showing that a definite trade in this gas had been established by another firm as far back as the eighteen-eighties."

#### Aetiology of Cancer

Dr. A. T. BRAND (Driffield, E. Yorks) writes: In your issue of March 10th a report is given of an address delivered at Bradford-on-Avon by Mr. Comyns Berkeley, a member of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, in which he made the statement that "despite the work of large numbers of research workers in all parts of the world the cause of cancer still remained unknown." In this con-

nexion it is interesting to read the report of the United States Treasury Department of Public Health, Washington, of March 31st, 1933, of the production of a malignant growth in an experimental animal by T. J. Glover, M.D. "The purpose of this report is to place on record the production of metastatic malignancy in one of a group of guinea-pigs inoculated with a culture containing a spore-bearing micro-organism which was isolated, on special medium, from the tissue of a microscopically proved carcinoma of the human breast. The micro-organism was again recovered from the malignant tissue of the animal herein reported. A detailed report will be made at a later date giving the findings on the remainder of this group of guinea-pigs, as well as on a series of other experimental animals inoculated with the same micro-organism. The inoculation of the culture was made in the mammary region of an adult female guinea-pig on November 5th, 1932. The animal was observed at frequent intervals until sacrificed on February 28th, 1933." The report then gives the findings on post-mortem examination, and makes the following comment. "The new growth has apparently risen in breast tissue, resembles lactating mammary acini in histological structure, and is identical in structure in the primary and in the various metastatic masses. In the invasion and destruction of tissue and in the production of distant metastasis it fulfils two of the criteria of malignancy. *Diagnosis*: malignant adenoma with metastases in lymph nodes, omentum, and kidneys." The microscopical findings were made by Surgeon R. D. Lillie of the United States Public Health Service, in charge of the work in pathology, at the National Institute of Health, Washington.

#### Maternal Mortality and the Newspapers

Dr. J. HOPE POOL (Newcastle-on-Tyne) writes: In your issue of March 10th Dr. Lachlan Grant paves the way for a fuller inquiry into the acceptance of medical articles by the "lay press." It is well known that the public are only too eager to read such contributions, and the general practitioner is constantly encountering instances of such "expert advice" in the homes of his patients. As an endorsement of Dr. Lachlan Grant's opinion on the matter I am taking the liberty of quoting from my thesis (1932): "At a time when the lay press is flooded with articles and criticisms of the maternal mortality, the medical profession, already burdened by years of investigations and unable to defend themselves publicly, are using their best endeavours to mitigate the tendencies to such complications. The maternal mortality may be alarming to the layman, but to members of the medical profession it is a grave question, and according to Professor Herbert Spencer, 'eclampsia is one of the bugbears of the profession at the present time.'"

#### Helping the Doctor

Several readers have told us how touched they are by the kindly thought of a London bookmaker, who writes to them: "Something more than the receiving of bets is required of the bookmaker to-day. Owing to the delay and irregularity with which fees are paid to the members of your profession, and assuming that you are interested in racing, I am prepared to open your account with a weekly credit limit of £5 (five pounds), and allow settlement to be made monthly."

#### Legal Logic

"X. P. S." writes from Nottinghamshire: "Is the accused drunk?"—this bugbear of the medical profession has, at long last, been laid by the judicial bench, and gratitude should be expressed by all police surgeons and general practitioners. How simple and expeditious it will be! Q.—"Do you consent to be medically examined?" A.—"Yes." *Ergo*, not drunk.

#### Short-wave Diathermy

Messrs. WATSON AND SONS, LTD., 43-47, Parker Street, Kingsway, W.C.2, have issued a ten-page illustrated pamphlet on short-wave diathermy equipment. Reference is made to an apparatus already installed at St. Thomas's Hospital. An account is added of the field of application of this so-called "fever diathermy," which, in addition to mere pyrogenic use, can be employed as an adjunct to normal diathermy in various medical conditions. Two special apparatus are described.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, and 55 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 108.