

Pruritus with Jaundice

Dr. ALEX. P. GREEN (London, S.E.) writes: In answer to "P. J. M." (June 16th, p. 1103), I remember some years ago giving an injection of pilocarpine nitrate for just such a condition as he mentions, with very good results.

Orchitis After Prostatectomy

Dr. A. J. C. TINGEY (Hastings) writes, in reply to the inquiry by "X. Y. Z." (June 9th, p. 1061): Orchitis is a common sequel to *Bacillus coli* infection of the urinary tract. I suggest that a specimen of the patient's urine should be examined by a bacteriologist, and, if positive, the infection should be treated. Among the urinary disinfectants in general use pyridium, neotropin, and caprokol are convenient to prescribe, and are well tolerated.

Income Tax**Motor Car Allowance**

"P. N. G." inquires what he should claim in respect of a car he has "recently" purchased.

** So far as out-of-pocket expenses for running costs—including licence, insurance, etc.—are concerned they should be treated as ordinary professional expenses, though the local inspector will probably insist on some set-off from the total expenditure for private use of the car. As the car has been purchased recently the deduction of those expenses will, presumably, not affect his current year's liability. In addition, he can claim the "depreciation" allowance, and as that is deducted from the profits as an allowance for the year of assessment, there is no reason why a claim for an allowance of 20 per cent. of the cost price should not be made as for the current year—or, at any rate, for the appropriate number of months between the date of purchase and April 5th, 1935.

Employment of Assistant

"A. M." has "engaged an assistant, at £400 per annum, living out." The assistant has a car of a more expensive make and involving a larger consumption of petrol and oil than "A. M." would have supplied. The yearly mileage is about 3,500. What arrangement is considered reasonable?

** This is, of course, one of the minor matters which it would have been well to have settled beforehand. As it is, the general basis of a suitable arrangement would seem to be that "A. M." should pay as a car allowance to his assistant what would have been the probable cost (including depreciation, repairs, etc.) of providing an adequate car for his use. Possibly some addition should be made on the ground that with a better car the assistant can take a larger share of the work, or cover his share more effectively. For income tax purposes "A. M." will, of course, deduct the amount he pays.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Ethyl Chloride Analgesia in Minor Surgery**

Dr. JOHN FREDERICK BRISCOE (London, S.W.) writes: The contribution by Dr. A. Amoils under the above heading in your issue of June 23rd (p. 1143) I can thoroughly endorse. In the hands of the skilled and busy practitioner this method is simple and practical. But as regards dental extraction the operator *must* be an adept with his forceps. I had the opportunity of the friendship of Dr. Peake at the Durban Hospital, South Africa, two years ago, and I took him three Lascars with bad teeth and innumerable stumps in a pyorrhoeal mouth. Under the minute he removed fifteen stumps from one Indian subject without any upset whatsoever. Dr. Peake's practice is as follows: "He has a piece of lint 8 in. by 5½ in., with two drachms of the ethyl chloride sprinkled upon it. The patient is on an upright couch; the prepared lint is held a few inches before the face, and he is told to keep blowing into it. No gag is used. After about two minutes the stumps are skilfully and rapidly extracted. The head is turned aside over a small basin, and the mouth syringed out with pale Condy." Not least important, all instruments and hospital furniture are absent within a quiet room.

** We take this opportunity to correct a typographical error in Dr. Amoils's letter. In the description of the method of administration, "(eight-inch)" should read "(eighth-inch)."

Imported Insulin

Mr. J. WICLIFFE PECK, Ph.C., F.C.S., chairman of the firm of C. L. Blencard (1934) Ltd., importers of Danish insulin, writes: In your issue of June 9th, under "Medical Notes in Parliament," you give a report of the interview which the Chancellor of the Exchequer granted to a deputation from the Parliamentary Medical Committee, on the removal of the tax on imported insulin, and a further report of the debate which ensued in the House of Commons on the repeal of the Customs duty thereon. Certain statements which, according to your reports, were made on these two occasions are without foundation, and therefore I trust you will give equal publicity to the following comments. A member of the deputation is reported to have stated: (1) "The Danes had buildings and equipments free. Raw pancreas and labour were both cheaper." Danish raw pancreas is not so cheap as imported frozen pancreas from the Argentine or pancreas from English slaughterhouses. The other statements quoted are devoid of foundation. (2) "And their product exempted from income tax." This is a totally misleading statement. (3) "It was evident that the Danes were prepared to under-sell British manufacturers however much these reduced the price, and would so secure the British market." This assumption is both without foundation and absurd. In the House of Commons speakers are reported to have said: (1) "The committee should be asked to pass a clause which would probably have the effect of handing over to a foreign monopoly the manufacture of insulin." There is no foreign monopoly in existence, nor can I see the slightest prospect of one arising. (2) "Denmark was able to produce insulin more cheaply than we were, partly because of the subsidized nature of the manufacture, partly because of the ease with which the Danes could obtain the pancreas, and partly because of the cheapness of the pancreas." These suggestions are fictitious. (3) "This country produced finer and purer insulin than any other country in the world." It would be interesting to learn on what grounds the speaker makes this claim. I regard it as without foundation.

Medical Reunion in Vienna

With reference to the notice in this column on June 16th (p. 1104), the committee has decided to postpone the reunion of doctors in Vienna to July 29th, in accordance with general request. The meeting will therefore be held from July 29th until August 4th, instead of July 9th to 15th, as originally intended.

By Air to Bournemouth

For the benefit of members of the British Medical Association who may wish to travel by air to the Annual Meeting at Bournemouth next month, Provincial Airways, Ltd., of Croydon are prepared to reduce their fares from £2 10s. to 35s. single. To enable members to reach Bournemouth in time to attend the morning session of the Scientific Sections, a machine will leave London at about 8.30 a.m. Those who are interested should communicate direct with Provincial Airways, Ltd.

Corrigendum

In our review of *Individual Psychology and Practice*, published on June 23rd (p. 1122), the name of Dr. C. M. Bevan-Brown, one of the four contributors to this pamphlet, was incorrectly given.

As announced in our advertisement pages last week, a new company, Ciba Limited, 40, Southwark Street, London, S.E.1, is taking over the pharmaceutical department of the Clayton Aniline Company Limited, as sole concessionaires for the Ciba Brand pharmaceutical products. The formation of the new company coincides with the jubilee of the Ciba firm in Basle.

Watson and Sons (Electro-Medical) Ltd. (Sunic House, 43-47, Parker Street, W.C.2) have issued a new leaflet dealing with infra-red and radiant heat equipment, and including some new types of apparatus; also a price list of their medical arc carbons. Copies may be had gratis or application.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 44 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 344.