

rash cleared up readily enough in two to three weeks, but pain was persistent. I had warned her of the probability of this, and I sent her to have diathermy at the hands of a competent physiotherapist. The treatment was very successful after a few applications. I shall be glad if the same measure were to prove helpful in Dr. Lewis-Philipps's case.

Dr. GEORGE L. FOSS (Bristol) writes: May I suggest that Dr. Lewis-Philipps tries autohaemotherapy for his case of post-herpetic neuralgia. The technique is as follows: 10 c.cm. of blood is withdrawn from any large vein, preferably the median cubital, using a needle of large bore. The syringe should be washed through, if sterilized with spirit, with 5 per cent. solution of sodium citrate or even boiled water. This blood is then injected immediately into the outer quadrant of the buttock deep into the gluteus muscle. The dose may be increased up to 20 c.cm. in intervals of four days. It may be necessary to give six or more injections. Given early, autohaemotherapy, in my opinion, is specific for herpes zoster, preventing any pain in early cases and certainly worth a trial in long-standing ones.

#### Aural Diphtheria

Dr. F. TEMPLE GREY (London, E.1) writes in answer to Dr. W. A. Mayne (*Journal*, December 22nd, p. 1185): This is a well-recognized condition. Some account of extrafaucal diphtheria is to be found in the December issue of *Public Health*. I recommend local applications of antitoxin plus injections if there are constitutional signs or symptoms.

#### Income Tax

##### Private Use of Car

"K. C." points out that the general car expenses—for example, garage, tax, and insurance—have to be incurred, whether he uses the car privately or not, and suggests that in consequence only the running costs of private use should be disallowed.

\*\* It may be taken that, even though the facts are as stated and the car essential for professional use, the *pro rata* division of the general expenses cannot be successfully resisted. The Income Tax Acts do not specifically deal with the point, but the language used in the case of general expenses, and such special items as "rent," which also causes private and professional expenses, would render an appeal hopeless.

##### Costs in Setting up Practice

"A. K." started a new practice as from January 1st. What can he claim towards equipment of surgery and waiting room, including appliances and drugs, cost of new car, and garage?

\*\* The cost of setting up a practice is capital expenditure and not allowable for income tax purposes. This does not, however, extend to saleable stock such as drugs or materials used in the course of the year. "A. K." is therefore entitled to regard as an expense the cost of drugs, bandages, lint, etc., purchased at the beginning of, or during, the year, but must deduct therefrom the value of the stock on hand at the end of the year.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Calcium, Claudication, and Cinchophen

Sir JAMES BARR writes from Hindhead: I am much interested in the case of subacute yellow atrophy after cinchophen, recorded in your issue of December 29th, 1934, by Dr. T. N. Fraser, chiefly on account of the fatal issue after comparatively small doses. When my wife and I were having a tour in Scotland in 1923 we saw our friends Sir X and Lady Y at Tibby Shields, St. Mary's Loch. He was suffering from intermittent claudication of the arteries of both legs, but the intermission is in sufficient blood supply to the muscles: not in the size of the calcareous arteries. He could not walk a few hundred yards without frequent haltings, and was rather pleased to show the radiograms of his arteries. He had been under the care of the most popular physician in London, who ordered a milk diet, fifteen grains of atophan (cinchophen) thrice daily; this was to be alternated week in and week out with a powder consisting of equal parts of carbonate of magnesium, citrate of potassium, and bicarbonate of sodium, one and a half drachms thrice daily. I pointed out to my friend that atophan is supposed to be a specific for gout and uric acid, but gout was not even a second cousin to claudication.

Moreover, the highly alkaline powder would not dissolve the calcareous deposits in his arteries, but, on the other hand, would tend to precipitate the excess of lime in his blood and the liberal supply he was imbibing in the milk, and thus cause further blocking. I advised him to stop all his physic and milk; to take plenty of lemon squash and claret, and when he returned to London to drink Salutaris water. In a short time his claudication improved. Since then I have not prescribed atophan for myself or anyone else. After Dr. Fraser's experience I shall try to prevent anyone being poisoned with cinchophen.

#### Treatment of Haemoptysis by Congo Red

Dr. N. E. D. DE SILVA writes from Ceylon: We ought to be greatly indebted to Drs. Morlock and Scott Pinchin for their article on a new treatment of haemoptysis, by intravenous injections of Congo red, which appeared in the *Journal* of October 27th, 1934 (p. 762). The writers state that one of the difficulties in the procedure would be to know whether the needle has actually entered the vein, owing to the similarity in colour of blood and Congo red. I should like to suggest having two needles ready, one for the purpose of filling the syringe and the other for the actual injection itself. The latter is introduced into one of the veins at the elbow, and after its actual presence in the vein has been revealed by the trickling out of blood, the barrel of the syringe filled with Congo red is attached and the solution injected.

#### Maternal Mortality

Dr. H. G. LANGDALE-SMITH (Stechford) writes: Since the authorities are apparently beginning to realize that the scapegoats are not, after all, so much to blame for the high maternal mortality, is it not time that they gave up the muck-rake and looked for the glittering crown? Surely, after so much practical advancement in the active immunization of the community against diphtheria and scarlet fever, it would not be too much to ask the authorities, in those institutions or districts where puerperal fever is most prevalent, to seek and to find some immunologist who would, by cutaneous tests, detect those expectant mothers susceptible to the haemolytic streptococcus, and by active immunization protect them from infection and thus remove a 40 per cent. primary avoidable factor.

#### Freudian Use of Analogy

Dr. S. P. CASTELL (London, N.7) writes: The letter from Dr. H. G. Baynes in the *Journal* of December 22nd, 1934 (p. 1186), on the Freudian use of analogy prompts me to wonder whether in psycho-analysis the patient does not do something more for the analyst than merely supply material for study. It is very common for neurotics to confuse analogy with identity, any two things compared being "absolutely similar" [*sic*] or "totally different." I understand a man teaching his own language to foreigners is liable (while correcting their major errors) to catch some of their minor ones himself. May it not be that Freudian analysts, during the many hours of ostentatiously non-criticizing listening to each patient, pick up some of his minor errors and incorporate them in their doctrine? This might make for success in curing a patient who might be more willing to give up major errors if his minor ones were respected. But just as the language teacher would tend to become an imperfect guide for his own countrymen, it might be that the Freudian analyst becomes a very doubtful guide for the reasonably normal man.

#### Disclaimer

Sir WELDON DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS writes: My attention has been called to a paragraph about me which appeared in a daily paper of December 27th last, in which reference was made to my medical work. Needless to say this paragraph was inserted without my knowledge or consent.

The firm of E. Merck, chemical manufacturers of Darmstadt, have opened a new publicity bureau at 37 and 38, Golden Square, London, W.1, where information regarding their specialties will be available. As before, sales stocks will be held by H. R. Napp, Ltd., 3 and 4, Clements Inn, Kingsway, W.C.2.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, and 50 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships and locumtenencies at pages 48 and 49.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 8