

The prize of £15 offered by the *British Journal of Anaesthesia* for the best essay sent in on any subject directly concerned with the physiology or practice of anaesthetics has been awarded to Drs. Wesley Bourne and B. R. Raginsky of McGill University, Montreal. The title of their essay is "Vinyl Ether (Vinethene) Anaesthesia in Dogs: Effects upon Normal and Impaired Liver," and it is published in the current number of the journal.

During the international motor exhibition in Berlin, from February 14th to 24th, an office will be opened at Kaiserdamm 95 to supply information to medical motorists.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Société des Chirurgiens was celebrated in Paris on January 24th in the presence of M. Albert Lebrun, President of the French Republic, M. P. E. Flandin, the Prime Minister, M. Pierre Laval, the Member for Foreign Affairs, and numerous other notabilities.

Dr. Pierre Janet, professor of psychology at the Collège de France, has been made a member of the Institut and a Commander of the Legion of Honour.

A statue of Hippocrates in Naxos marble, copied from that recently discovered at Cos, has been erected in front of the entrance to the laboratories of the Athens Faculty of Medicine.

Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and **LETTERS** forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring **REPRINTS** of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

All communications with reference to **ADVERTISEMENTS**, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Diphtheria Carriers

"P. G. D." would be glad to know of any treatment—local or otherwise—likely to convert a positive to a negative swab in a diphtheria carrier. Tonsillectomy has been considered and rejected as unjustifiable. The patient is a girl aged 12 years.

Buccal Ulcers

"J. B. J." writes: I would like to glean any information regarding the treatment of small and recurring ulcers in the mouth. What line of treatment is likely to prevent them? For years I have been troubled with these, and have had many wretched times with them. Teeth are good, tongue always quite clean, diet is plain. I have tried all textbook remedies, but have come to the conclusion that little difference is made by them.

Oedema of One Arm: ? Cause

Dr. H. L. WINTER (London, W.1) writes in reply to Dr. H. B. A. Ratcliffe-Densham (*Journal*, January 19th, p. 137): I suggest trying a method which I found years ago in the German literature, and which was very good in treating

similar conditions of the lower extremities. It consists of (1) bandaging with an elastic bandage, and (2) daily fomentations with a paste of pulverized semen sinapis and warm tap-water, beginning with five minutes and by and by prolonging the treatment up to two hours.

Niemeyer's Pill

Dr. ANDREW TRIMBLE (Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Belfast) writes in reply to Dr. Archibald Fairlie (*Journal*, January 26th, p. 188): In his *Clinical Lectures on Pulmonary Consumption* (New Sydenham Society, London, 1870) Niemeyer gives the composition of the pill exactly as it is given in Sir William Whitla's *Pharmacy, Materia Medica, and Therapeutics*. It is quite true that the B.P.C. gives Baly's and Guy's pill as synonyms of Niemeyer's, but this, I think, is wrong.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Herpes Zoster and Varicella

Dr. H. D. HAWORTH (Nelson, Lancs) writes: We are accustomed to believe that cases of herpes zoster in adults occur more frequently when varicella in children is occurring in the same district. I have never met with a case of herpes zoster that could be traced as one actually infected from a case of varicella, or vice versa. In October, 1934, I came across a unique association of these two diseases. A married woman, aged 34, developed a typical attack of herpes zoster, the clumps of vesicles appearing on the anterior surface of one thigh and just below the level of the knee. During the third week of this attack the woman's son, aged 1 year and 10 months, developed a typical attack of varicella of a mild type. The following week the woman's daughter, aged 4, also developed a typical attack of mild varicella. The family are superior working class, living in a modern house in healthy surroundings. The most careful inquiry reveals no evidence of exposure to infection by varicella. One is therefore driven to the conclusion that the children were infected from their mother. In other words, the same infection caused the eruptions of herpes zoster in the mother and varicella in the children. The association of these two diseases in the same house is so unusual that I thought it worth while to record the occurrence.

"Receding in all Directions"

Dr. W. L. ENGLISH (Crewe) writes: With reference to Admiral Beadnell's remarks in the *Journal* of January 19th (p. 132) on the expanding universe, we are apparently told that any nebula, in any direction whatever, is receding from us at some 24,000 miles per second. If a nebula is receding from us, we are surely receding from it at the same speed—that is, we are receding in all directions at a rather incredible speed, which seems to me rather incredible. Curiously, the next letter in your most readable and interesting Correspondence section has the heading, "We Have Reason to Think . . ."

"Giraffe Women"

Dr. E. D. B. WOLFE (London, W.2) writes: May I point out an error in the description of the "giraffe women" appearing under the heading of "Human Freaks and Oddities" in the *Journal* of January 26th. These people are not found in Penang Island or in the Malay Peninsula. The Palaungs are a people of Southern Burma.

Diagnostic Sign in Fibrositis and Myalgia

Dr. E. SAKOSCHANSKY (Southampton) writes: In cases of myalgia, fibrositis, and similar conditions I have often found tenderness in the second interosseous space on the dorsum of either or both hands. The tender spot is usually found on the radial side of the third metacarpal bone in its upper third, and sometimes a definite and tender nodule is felt. I have sometimes found it of diagnostic help. In obscure cases of myalgia, etc., this tender spot, or better still the nodule, have helped to clear up a doubtful case. Having found it, other nodules can frequently be found in the muscles of the neck, etc. I shall be glad to know whether others may find this sign of some use.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, and 53 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 52.