

Claudication and Raynaud's Disease

Dr. J. FRELICH (London, W.9) writes: Professor John Fraser's address on circulatory diseases of the extremities is of great interest to me as I am attending a patient, aged 52, for intermittent claudication. The x-ray report states "there is evidence of early calcification of the right popliteal and posterior tibial arteries." The pain in the leg dates from 1930. The patient tells me that about ten years ago his fingers used to go white, accompanied by a good deal of pain and "pins and needles"; this recurred during the following two years, but not since. I would like to know if other medical men have met with the two conditions—namely, intermittent claudication and Raynaud's disease in one individual.

Lily Rash

Dr. W. H. PALMER (Hayle, Cornwall) writes on the subject of lily rash and its possible prevention by inoculation (see *Lancet*, October 6th, 1934, p. 755): I should be obliged if any of your readers who have been trying a vaccine made from daffodil stalks would let me know: (1) the top dose—that is, number of units reached before picking started; (2) if protection was given to any degree, whether slight or considerable. I am trying to correlate reports from various users. There seems to be no doubt that inoculation confers protection, but the dosage for absolute protection has yet to be determined.

Income Tax**Royalty on Professional Monograph**

"X. Z." has arranged for the publication of a monograph. The publishers do not think that the sales will cover expenses, and "X. Z." has to contribute £160 towards the cost of publication, but will have a 10 per cent. royalty on sales. Can he claim to set off the £160 against the royalty receipts?

** The form of the agreement with the publishers seems to be a little unfortunate, because, prima facie, the £160 is a "capital" contribution towards the cost of originating the royalties, which are "income." On that basis "X. Z." would be liable to account for tax on the latter without any deduction for the former. It is, however, open to question whether, having regard to the fundamental assumption that a loss will be incurred on the publication, the real substance of the transaction is not that "X. Z." has to contribute by way of cover to the publisher a maximum amount of £160, which is reduced by the aggregate amount of the royalties. In equity "X. Z." should have the benefit of any doubt, but we fear that a strict interpretation of the law is against him.

Locumtenent Work

"J. T. M.," who resides in Scotland, did some locumtenent work in England. Can he "deduct an allowance for hotel expenses in the periods of work"?

** No. They would not be regarded as having been incurred in carrying out the work for which he received payment.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Anaesthetists' Meeting in Melbourne**

A paragraph in the *Journal* of January 26th (p. 164) invited members of the British Medical Association visiting Australia for the Annual Meeting to attend the meeting of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists at Melbourne from September 16th to 18th. The following further information has now been received from the honorary secretary of the society, Dr. Geoffrey Kaye. The official B.M.A. party leaves Melbourne on the morning of September 15th, and the boat will reach Sydney on the evening of the 16th, to leave again for Singapore at noon on the 19th. The meeting of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists lasts from the morning of the 16th to the afternoon of the 18th, but there is a train which leaves Melbourne for Sydney daily at 5.30 p.m., arriving at 10 a.m. next day. It would thus be possible for an anaesthetist who so desired to attend one, two or even three days of the meeting and still reach Sydney before the boat goes. Of course, to miss the connexion at Sydney would be embarrassing, but not beyond remedy. The official boat will doubtless call at Brisbane, which is twenty-one hours by rail or four hours by aeroplane from Sydney.

"For an A1 People Beer is Best"

Dr. H. E. HARGREAVES (Watford) writes: Variations of this advertisement are before our eyes throughout London, urging us to "profit by that knowledge in the campaign to improve the whole nation's physique." In the opinion of many these statements are at variance with actual fact. Beer is an alcoholic drink. I was taught that an increase in the amount of alcohol consumed by individuals making up a nation usually means an increase *pari passu* of tuberculosis, venereal disease, lunacy, crime, and misery generally in that nation. Perhaps those who are in authority will tell us whether this is true or not. Or perhaps this campaign in the interests of beer has the blessing of the Ministry of Health, in which case we shall expect to see vast quantities of beer ordered by that authority for consumption in ante-natal clinics, lying-in hospitals, and infant schools. We should also like to ask medico-legal experts and parliamentarians about the laws governing such propaganda, and what control can be exerted should those in authority deem advertisements to be misleading.

An Emblem for Doctors' Cars?

Dr. EDWARD S. JACKSON (Carnforth) writes: Now that a fixed maximum speed has been prescribed by the authorities for all motorists travelling upon the road through any districts which are classed as populated—whether cities, towns, or villages—would it not be advisable that every medical man who uses his car when called upon to visit urgent and dangerous cases of all kinds should be allowed to wear or carry a small red cross upon the car which would allow him to travel at what speed is necessary for the benefit of his attention to the case without being checked on doing so by the road authorities? I know that such a method of procedure has been adopted in America.

** We believe that the use of the Red Cross as an emblem by private individuals or firms is forbidden under the Geneva Convention.

Disclaimers

Dr. A. C. FRAZER (London) writes: I would like to state that the report in the *Manchester Guardian* of March 21st on the work done by Dr. V. G. Walsh and myself, on the adsorption of toxins by fine oil in water emulsions, was made entirely without my knowledge, and that the subsequent reports in the lay press were a direct result of this article. I would further like to dissociate myself from any extravagant claims which may have appeared in the newspapers, and to emphasize that work on the adsorption of toxins and the application of this principle to the treatment of pneumonia and other toxæmic conditions is still in progress. This being so, I sincerely hope that the medical profession will defer any inquiries with regard to this matter until such time as the results of these investigations are made public in the proper quarter.

Mr. S. W. DAW (Leeds) writes: My name has appeared in the daily press in connexion with a case treated at the Leeds Infirmary. I wish to emphasize that this use of my name is entirely unauthorized, and that it has been suppressed by me as much as possible.

Mr. P. R. ALLISON (Leeds) writes: It has been brought to my notice that in the *Daily Mirror* for Monday, March 25th, an account was given of a patient who collapsed under an anaesthetic at Leeds Infirmary, and was subsequently revived by cardiac massage and artificial respiration. I find that my name has been associated with this operation, and I wish to state that this was entirely unauthorized. I have received a letter of apology from the Northern Editor of the *Daily Mirror*.

Corrigendum

An error appeared in the *Journal* of March 23rd (p. 614) in the reference to the Ministry of Health's circular relating to Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony. The age limit for the treatment of tuberculous youths should have been stated as 13 to 19.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 124.