

Oedema of One Arm

Dr. M. GONGULEE (Bengal, Dacca) writes: In the *Journal* of January 19th Dr. H. B. A. Ratcliffe-Densham cited a peculiar case of oedema of one arm, and invited some suggestions for treatment. I take this opportunity of sending you an instance that came under my observation bearing much resemblance to the case referred to. This patient, aged about 50 years, suffered occasionally from malaria—a very common disease in this part of Bengal. But for the last six months he observed that his right arm, between the elbow and the wrist, had become oedematous. It was neither tender nor painful. He tried various remedies without any avail. When he consulted me I advised the examination of the blood after a nap in the middle of the night. To our great satisfaction the mystery was solved. As I expected, it proved to be a case of filariasis—a malady not of rare occurrence in the Tropics. I thought of it because the glands in the right axilla were a little prominent, being palpable on pressure. I acted on the idea that the lymphatic circulation in deeper regions of that arm was very possibly obstructed and that gave rise to the oedema. This patient's urine showed no abnormality. The differential count of his blood presented a little lymphocytosis, but the total count remained normal. His spleen and liver were also normal in size. The cardiovascular system also seemed normal, and the Wassermann reaction was negative. After this diagnosis he has been treated with antimony and filaria vaccine, and his arm has now returned to its normal size.

Income Tax**Remittance from Abroad**

"S. H." is in practice abroad. If his wife returns to England will she be liable for tax on remittances made by him from his earnings, and what will be the position when he joins her here for, say, eight months?

** The wife will not be liable to tax on such remittances, whether she has a house of her own or resides in a furnished house. But when "S. H." comes to this country he will, in the former case, be a British resident, and become liable to pay tax on the income received here in the financial year—less, of course, the usual allowances and reliefs. If neither the wife nor "S. H." establish a residence here he will not be liable when he comes over provided he does not spend six months in any one financial year in the United Kingdom.

Valuation for Insurance

"INQUISITIVE" is allowed half the cost of insuring the contents of his house as attributable to professional equipment. He has recently had the contents valued at a cost of 12 guineas, but the inspector of taxes refuses to allow any proportion of this.

** Presumably the ground of objection is that as the valuation cost is incurred once for purposes to be spread over future years it is "capital" outlay. There is some ground for that view, but it does seem to us that the inspector is dealing with a reasonable claim in a narrow spirit. So far as our knowledge goes such expenses would normally be allowed, unless there were some unusual circumstances.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Syrup in Treatment of Burns**

Mr. H. C. S. DE WHALLEY, F.I.C. (chief chemist, Tate and Lyle, Ltd., London, E. 16), writes: An abstract appearing in the *Epitome* of April 6th, para. 285, describes the local application of common sugar in suppurative diabetic sores, and explains its action as almost entirely due to osmosis. It may be of interest to record that Lyle's golden syrup, which contains dextrose, laevulose, and sucrose, has an enormously high osmotic pressure. It also has the advantage of being completely sterile. I had occasion to try the remedy on myself for a chemical burn with boiling sulphuric acid. After quickly washing off the acid and drying my hand a painful blister formed. When this was covered with golden syrup the pain immediately abated, and the blister had completely disappeared in about fifteen minutes.

Bed Urinal for Prostatic Cases

Dr. C. HORWITZ (London, N.) writes: I would like to draw the attention of those who suffer from hypertrophy of the prostate with nocturnal enuresis to a simple remedy I offer

to my patients. In order to save them the inconvenience of having to rise from a warm bed in the middle of the night I tell them to purchase an ordinary glass water bottle with a large mouth—the ordinary water bottle found usually for washing one's teeth is the thing. They should use this as a urinal. It is left standing by the side of the bed on the floor. When needed the patient places the water bottle between his legs, and it rests at a fair angle on the bed—he passes water lying on his back. This is less expensive than an ordinary urinal, and for sentimental reasons preferred by patients.

Varicocele on the Right Side

Dr. N. M. SHAH (Nakuru, Kenya) writes: In the *Manual of Surgery* by Rose and Carless (eleventh edition) it is mentioned that a varicocele is almost invariably on the left side, chiefly on account of certain anatomical relations of the left spermatic vein, peculiar to the left side only. But I have recently come across a typical case of varicocele on the right side in a young unmarried man of 30, who is otherwise quite normal, the varicocele having begun to appear at the age of 26.

The Poison that was Poured Away

Lieut.-Colonel R. H. ELLIOT (London, W.1) writes: In your issue of April 6th Dr. Letitia Fairfield refers to "the teetotal peeress who inherited a cellar of valuable wines, and ordered her butler to pour them down the drain under the sincere belief that alcohol was poison. No one has ever contended that this act, though shocking to all right-minded persons, was in any way illegal." I can furnish an amusing commentary on this incident. During her last illness this able and original lady had eye trouble, for which I attended her. Though very charming, she was a little *difficile* with nurses, but I was able to get for her an excellent and tactful nurse, of whom she became very fond. On one occasion on visiting the lady I found the nurse much amused. She told me the reason. She had said: "Lady —, it was a shame for you to pour all that beautiful wine down the drains at a time when there were so many of our soldiers who would have appreciated it." The old lady replied: "My dear, I will tell you a secret; that wine was all corked. It was not fit to drink." Comment is needless.

Medical Golf

In a match recently played at Brockworth a team representing the Gloucestershire Branch of the British Medical Association met a team from the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Law Society, twelve playing on each side. The result was a win for the legal golfers by 6½ to 5½.

Central Midwives Board: Correction

In the paragraph with this heading (April 27th, p. 893) it was incorrectly stated that the Ministry of Health had reappointed Dr. Fairbairn, Miss Doubleday, and Miss Pollard as representatives on the Board. These three persons are appointed by the Incorporated Midwives' Institute under the Central Midwives Board (Constitution) Order, 1920, which requires that one registered medical practitioner and two certified midwives shall be appointed by that institute.

Corrigenda

It would seem that the "printer's devil" must have an anti-psychotherapeutic bias, for two of his symptomatic actions have taken this colour recently in our columns. To stigmatize on the Contents page of our issue of March 16th "Psychotherapy as a Cause of Incapacity among Insured persons" was bad enough, but to this insult was added the injury on April 13th of substituting the adjective "psycho-neurotic" for "psychotherapeutic" in describing the methods of treatment which include persuasion, re-education, and others.

Owing to an error in *Epitome* paragraph 310, in the *Journal* of April 13th, the word "hypermetropic" appeared instead of "hypertrophic" in the third line, while in the third line from the end the words "or from" should be inserted between "pigmentosa" and "quinine."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, and 65 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 62 and 63.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 216.