

Assistant—Use of Own Car

"E. L." is acting as assistant in a general practice. She bought a car for £69 in August, 1934, and sold it on April 1st, 1935, for £37, buying another car for £105. The car is used professionally only on Saturdays and Sundays. What can be claimed?

** It is assumed that "E. L." is required by the terms of engagement to provide a car for Saturday and Sunday use. In that case she is entitled to deduct from the gross earnings of the year to April 5th, 1935, a reasonable proportion of the cost of replacement—that is, £69 - £37 = £32—of the former car. The proportion will presumably have to be settled on the basis of the ratio of professional to private mileage.

Santonin and Diabetes

Dr. E. A. FREYWIRTH (London, S.E.17) writes: Is there any evidence that santonin has a beneficial effect on the carbohydrate metabolism in diabetes, and, if so, by what way does it exert its action? Actually glycosuria seems to be influenced by the drug, but I should like to know whether the blood sugar and ketosis is influenced as well. Is its prolonged administration connected with any risks, and could it be given in pill with Dover's powder?

Snoring

Mr. J. H. BADCOCK, F.R.C.S. (London, W.), writes in reply to the query published last week: If "H. N.'s" patient breathes freely through his nose he should get his dentist to make him a "mouth valve," which, with an addition of a support for the chin should it be needed, should make snoring impossible.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Strickland Goodall Memorial

The signatories to the letter printed in our issue of April 13th (p. 801) announcing the establishment of a Strickland Goodall Memorial Fund write: This fund, which is instituted to perpetuate the memory of the late Dr. J. Strickland Goodall by a lecture and medal named after him, held under the auspices of the Apothecaries' Society, is to be closed on June 30th next. Will those who feel they would like to contribute towards it kindly send their donations before that date to the Honorary Treasurer, Strickland Goodall Fund, Westminster Bank, Harley Street, W.1.

The Treatment of Syphilis

Some confusion may have been caused to readers of our editorial, "The Treatment of Syphilis," printed in the *Journal* of May 18th, owing to insufficient emphasis having been laid on the method of alternating continuous treatment as opposed to intermittent treatment. The text description of the method begins at the third paragraph after the cross-heading "II" (p. 1089)—"As an optional scheme . . ."—and concludes the article. The table printed across the upper half of the page sets out the scheme of treatment.

Jubilee Day Casualties

The total number of casualties dealt with by the accident section of the London Ambulance Service on Jubilee Day, May 6th, was 244, the highest number recorded on any one day, with the exception of the day of the "silver thaw" in 1927, when the streets froze after rain, and the ambulance service received 378 calls. On Jubilee Day no case of delay in sending an ambulance occurred, but in one instance an ambulance dispatched from Westminster station was twenty-six minutes in reaching the scene of the accident in Trafalgar Square owing to the congestion in the streets. The average time in reaching the cases from the moment of call was just over six minutes. This expedition was rendered possible by the new organization whereby the number of available ambulances can be increased from eighteen to thirty-two on emergency, the second ambulance maintained at each station being kept manned for street service if necessary. During the whole of Jubilee week in London the number of calls received was 1,180, an increase of some 300 on the corresponding week in the previous year.

"Please, Sir . . ."

Dr. S. CHARLES LEWSEN (London, W.1) writes: My attention has been drawn to the practice in certain schools of making it a punishable offence for children to use the lavatory during class hours. I can sympathize with the teacher's efforts to check the desire of a little malingerer for

a respite from Latin construction or a mathematical conundrum, even in the unsavoury atmosphere of a school latrine. I can also see the wisdom of preparing the young for the discipline of adulthood, where they will find little facility for relieving emergency calls on their natural functions, and none at all should they happen to be without a penny. Nevertheless, there must be many occasions where this brutal practice is exercised on a genuine case, making only for the alternatives of punishment or an unpleasant accident, and, because of the innocent, this regulation should be condemned most vigorously on medical grounds. I commend its notice to school medical officers, psychologists, and others.

What is Medicine?

We quote the following from an editorial in the *Medical Record* of May 1st, 1935: "However, recently we have come to the conclusion from a careful statistical study that medicine is really neither an art nor a science. In using Professor Blimpus's test, which is infallible and shows results in one hundred per cent. of cases, we have arrived at the conclusion that medicine is a business."

Treatment of Cardiac Emergencies

"G. P." (London, S.E.) writes: The article by Professor John Hay on coronary thrombosis, in the *Journal* of May 4th (p. 936), is of especial interest, as I have had success in the treatment of this condition with a formula devised and improved by myself, consisting practically of quinine and iodide in small doses. Some years ago I found that quinine sulphate and potassium iodide in small doses were useful in thrombosis generally, and I gave such a mixture as the following:

R.	Quin. sulph.	...	...	...	...	gr. vj
	Acid. phos. dil.	...	...	...	...	3 j
	Liq. cocci	...	...	...	...	m x
	Pot. iod.	...	...	...	...	gr. iv
	Aq. chlorof.	...	...	...	...	3 ij
	Aq.	...	...	...	...	ad 3 vj
	3 ij four-hourly, ex aq., p.c.					

I eventually improved on this as follows—by substituting tinct. cardamom. co. as carminative for the liq. cocci, and adding a little pot. cit. if blood pressure is raised and omitting if normal or low.

R.	Quin. sulph.	...	...	...	...	gr. vj
	Acid. phos. dil.	...	...	...	...	3 j
	Tinct. cardamom. co.	...	...	...	...	3 iv
	Pot. cit.	...	...	...	...	gr. xij
	Pot. iod.	...	...	...	...	gr. iv
	Liq. strych. hyd.	...	...	...	...	m xxiv
	Tinct. scillae	...	...	...	...	m xxiv
	Aq. chlorof.	...	...	...	...	3 ij
	Aq.	...	...	...	...	ad 3 vj
	3 ij four-hourly, ex aq., p.c.					

and troch. phenolis—a quarter of a lozenge after each dose—and a quarter of a grain of calomel as hepatic stimulant daily. The idea of the troch. phenolis is, like sulphocarbolate of soda, to dispel flatulence, so often a precipitating factor in the attack. My first case was fifteen years ago—a typical coronary thrombosis—verified by a cardiologist, and it was and has remained a perfect success. I think the above formula also gradually clears up any underlying coronary arteriosclerosis. In the *Journal* of May 11th (p. 988) Dr. Shirley Smith deals with the routine treatment of angina pectoris. In many cases it may be sufficient to keep the blood pressure down to a safety zone with dieting, rest, and trinitrin, and, if an acute attack comes on, possibly by amyl nitrite or the old idea of a whiff of chloroform; but if the attacks persist it is worth trying the above formula. In certain cases I have met with there has been plethora without raised blood pressure, and failing venesection for the relief of dyspnoea the following formula is useful:

R.	Sod. nitrit.	...	...	...	...	gr. ss
	Mag. carb. lev.	...	...	...	...	gr. x
	Mag. sulph.	...	...	...	...	3 j
	Aq. menth. pip.	...	...	...	...	3 j
	3 j, t.d.s.					

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, and 55 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 52 and 53.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 236.