

# British Medical Journal

CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 22, 1936



ADDRESSES AND PAPERS	
<b>Avoidable Disasters.</b> Lecture by G. R. GIRDLESTONE, F.R.C.S. ....	349
<b>Radiological Examination of the Stomach and Duodenum.</b> By K. STUART CROSS, M.Sc., M.D. ....	353
<b>Dercum's Disease and its Treatment by Deep X Rays.</b> By STEPHEN K. MONTGOMERY, M.D. ....	357
<b>Caesarean Section in Infected Cases.</b> By MARGARET M. BASDEN, F.R.C.S. ....	358
<b>Yon Gierke's Disease Associated with Amylorrhoea.</b> By A. E. NAISH, M.D., F.R.C.P., and T. E. GUMPERT, M.B., M.R.C.P. (Illustrated) ....	360
<b>The Aschheim-Zondek Test in the Puerperium.</b> By F. A. E. CREW, M.D. ....	363
<b>Whither Midwifery?</b> By E. FARQUHAR MURRAY, M.D., F.R.C.S. ....	375

IN GENERAL PRACTICE	
<b>Treatment of Chronic Constipation.</b> By ROBERT HUTCHISON, M.D., F.R.C.P. ....	374

CLINICAL MEMORANDA	
<b>Strychnine Poisoning Treated Successfully.</b> By A. G. BANCROFT, M.D., and D. DE C. BOXHILL, M.D. ....	363
<b>Cerebral Cysticercosis Simulating Epilepsy.</b> By JOHN C. DICK, M.B., Ch.B. ....	364
<b>Obesity in Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</b> By W. E. SNELL, M.D. ....	364

REVIEWS	
<b>The Planning of Experiments</b> ....	365
<b>The Human Foot</b> ....	365
<b>Stainless Steel in Orthodontics</b> ....	366
<b>Morison's Introduction to Surgery</b> ....	366
<b>A Textbook of Bacteriology</b> ....	366
<b>Notes on Books</b> ....	367

OBITUARY	
A. J. Scott Pinchin, M.D. ....	391
Adolph Bronner, M.D. ....	391
Ethel Miller Vernon, M.D. ....	392
Priestley Leech, M.D. ....	392
Ernest Burchell, M.R.C.S. ....	392
R. W. S. Christmas, M.R.C.S. ....	393
A. A. G. Dickey, M.D. ....	393
John Henry Williams, L.S.A. ....	393
V. L. W. Jones, M.R.C.S. ....	393
Miss A. E. Cummins ....	393

MEDICO-LEGAL	
<b>Accident to a Patient's Mother: Liability of Hospitals</b> ....	394

THE SERVICES	
<b>Honorary Physicians to the King</b> ....	394
<b>Deaths in the Services</b> ....	394
<i>(For Naval, Military, and Air Force Appointments see SUPPLEMENT)</i>	

LEADING ARTICLES	
<b>DIAGNOSIS OF GASTRIC CANCER</b> ....	368
<b>A STATISTICAL CENTENARY</b> ....	369
<b>PREVENTIVE SURGERY</b> ....	370

ANNOTATIONS	
<b>Modern Methods in Bottle-feeding</b> ....	370
<b>New Digits for Old</b> ....	371
<b>Sterilization in Switzerland</b> ....	371
<b>The Berger Rhythm</b> ....	372
<b>Disinfectant Action of Wine</b> ....	372
<b>Parathyroidectomy for Ankylosing Polyarthrits</b> ....	373

GENERAL ARTICLES AND NEWS	
<b>Maternal Mortality and Abortion.</b> Deputation from the National Council of Women ....	378
<b>Medical Cinematography.</b> British Educational Films ....	378
<b>INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.</b> Conference in Lisbon ....	377
<b>PREPARATIONS AND APPLIANCES</b> ....	367
<b>MEDICAL NOTES IN PARLIAMENT:</b>	
The Government's Milk Policy ....	395
The Education Bill ....	396
The Poisons Rules ....	397
Lax Certification and Inaccurate Dispensing ....	397
Gas and Oxygen Anaesthesia ....	397
Deaths from Pyramidon Poisoning ....	397
Nutrition: League of Nations Report ....	397
Vaccination ....	398
Tuberculosis Research ....	398
<b>MEDICAL NEWS</b> ....	399

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES	
<b>LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE:</b>	
An Indictment of Alcohol ....	379
<b>MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON:</b>	
Treatment of Sterility ....	379
<b>SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH:</b>	
Serum Treatment of Typhoid Fever ....	380
<b>DEVON AND EXETER MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY:</b>	
Thrombosis of a Cerebellar Artery ...	382

LOCAL NEWS	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES—</b>	
Central Midwives Board ....	383
Finance of L.C.C. Hospitals ....	383
Health of the City of London ....	384
Housing in Kent ....	384
<b>SCOTLAND—</b>	
Glasgow Royal Infirmary ....	384
Crichton Royal Institution ....	384
Convalescent Home for Edinburgh ...	385
Sick Children ....	385
Scottish Pharmacy ....	385

LETTERS AND ANSWERS	
<b>Income Tax</b> ....	400
<b>Newcastle Hospitals</b> ....	400
<b>The Car in Winter: Precaution Against Frost</b> ....	400
<b>Disclaimer</b> ....	400

CORRESPONDENCE	
<b>The Grading of Milk.</b> By C. O. Hawthorne, M.D. ....	385
<b>Surgical Grafts for Coronary Disease.</b> By George A. Mason, F.R.C.S. ....	385
<b>Needles in Feet.</b> By H. A. H. Harris, F.R.C.S.; and Gilbert Bush, M.B. ....	386
<b>Atropine Poisoning.</b> By J. Gray Clegg, M.D. ....	387
<b>Iridocyclitis.</b> By Everard Williams, M.D.; W. Camac Wilkinson, M.D.; and J. H. Daggart, F.R.C.S. ....	387
<b>Analgesia in Midwifery.</b> By Robert Kuhn, M.D. ....	388
<b>Prostatectomy.</b> By C. Dundas Maitland, F.R.C.S. ....	388
<b>Nutritional Needs.</b> By Sydney M. Whitaker, M.D. ....	388
<b>Cancer in the Far East.</b> By John E. Kuhne, M.D. ....	388
<b>Treatment of Erysipelas, Acute Cholecystitis, and Pyelitis.</b> By E. N. Russell, M.D. ....	388
<b>The Departmental Committee on Coroners.</b> By John Shiel, L.R.C.P.; and W. C. D. Walmsley, M.B. ....	389
<b>Fire-walking.</b> By Sir Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S.; A. G. Thompson, M.B.; J. B. Lapsley, M.B.; and J. M. Stalker, M.D. ....	389
<b>Euthanasia.</b> By W. Guyon Richards, M.B. ....	390
<b>Birth Control.</b> By G. H. Alabaster, M.D. ....	390

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES	
<b>University of Cambridge</b> ....	395
<b>University of London</b> ....	395
<b>University of Sheffield</b> ....	395
<b>Royal College of Surgeons of England</b> ....	395
<b>British College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists</b> ....	395
<b>Inter-Collegiate Scholarships Board</b> ....	395
<b>Vacancies and Appointments</b> ....	400
<i>(See page 88 of SUPPLEMENT, also "Important Notice" at page 51 of Advertisements.)</i>	

The SUPPLEMENT contains:	
<b>Maternal Mortality: The Scottish Report.</b> By PETER MCKINLAY, M.D. ....	
<b>National Health Insurance:</b>	
Inquiry into a Practitioner's Conduct.	
Local Medical and Panel Committees.	
Insurance Medical Service Week by Week	
<b>CURRENT NOTES:</b>	
Ophthalmic Surgeons and Sight-testing Organizations.	
<b>CORRESPONDENCE:</b>	
Welfare Centres and the General Practitioner. By Alfred Cox, M.B.	
<b>BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY.</b>	
Association Notices; Vacancies and Appointments; Diary.	

AN EPITOME OF CURRENT MEDICAL LITERATURE will be found at the end of the JOURNAL

## THE LONDON & COUNTIES MEDICAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, Ltd.

President: Sir CUTHBERT S. WALLACE, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.C.S.

**OBJECTS.**—To protect, support, and safeguard the characters and interests of legally qualified Medical and Dental Practitioners; to advise and assist members of the Society in matters affecting their professional characters and interests. **UNLIMITED INDEMNITY** is provided for Members (subject to the Articles of Association) against the costs of actions undertaken for them by the Society, and against adverse costs and damages awarded against them in such actions.

Annual Subscription, £1.

Entrance Fee, 10/-.

No entrance fee to those joining within 12 months of registration.

Assets exceed £70,000.

Full particulars and application form from the Secretary, Victory House, Leicester Square, W.C.2.

Gerrard 4814.

## — CIRCULATION —

The circulation of the  
British Medical Journal  
is this week 38,500  
copies.

Please address advertisements

**THE MANAGER**  
**BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**  
British Medical Association House  
**TAVISTOCK SQUARE**  
**LONDON, W.C.1**  
'Phone: Euston 2111 (5 lines)

## — SCALE OF CHARGES —

Across Page.—Whole Page.....£20  
And pro rata to one-eighth page.  
Column Rate.—Whole Col.....£7 10s.  
And pro rata to one-eighth single column.  
Line Rate.—Six Lines & under...9s.  
Each additional line (6 words) 1s. 6d.  
Rights reserved to refuse or interrupt  
insertion of any advertisement. No recom-  
mendation is implied by acceptance.

## INDEX TO ADVERTISEMENTS

## PUBLISHERS

**Appleton-Century Co.**  
Bainton & Burslein  
Illustrative Electrocardiography 5  
Blanton, S. & M. G.—For Stutterers 5  
Kugelmass, I. N.—  
Growing Superior Children 5  
Major, R. H.—Disease and Destiny 5  
Mateer, F.—Glands, etc. 5  
Neurology and Psychiatry 5  
Osler's Medicine 5  
Rosenau, M. J.—  
Preventive Medicine & Hygiene 5

**British Medical Association**  
B.M.A. Publications ..... 54

**Churchill, J. & A., Ltd.**  
East, W. N.—  
Medical Aspects of Crime ..... 5  
Evans' Physiology ..... 5  
Goldsmith, W. N.—Dermatology ..... 5  
Shaw, W.—Gynaecology ..... 5  
Williams, G.—Minor Surgery, etc. .... 5

**Lewis, H. K., & Co. Ltd.**  
Beaumont, W.—  
Infra-Red Irradiation ..... 4  
Byrne, J. G.—Physiology of the Eye 4  
Harvey & Hill—Milk ..... 4  
Jelliffe & White—Nervous System ..... 4  
Roberts, F.—X-Ray Therapy ..... 4

**Wright & Sons Ltd.**  
Bailey, H.—Emergency Surgery ..... 4  
French, H.—Differential Diagnosis  
of Main Symptoms ..... 4  
Hutchison, R.—Index of Treatment 4

**ASSURANCE COMPANIES, &c.—**  
London Medical Protection Society 1  
M.I.A. .... Cover iii, 55

**BRASS NAME PLATES, &c.—**  
Herd, S. J. & A.—Name Plates ..... 39  
Osborne, F., & Co.—Name Plates ..... 38

**DEBT COLLECTION—**  
British Medical Protection Society 36

**FOOD PREPARATIONS—**  
Bemax and Fertil ..... 26  
Bickiepegs Ltd.—Nursery Food ..... 33  
Cheltime Foods Co.—Breads, etc. .... 38  
Horlick's Malted Milk ..... 15  
Marmite ..... 11  
Valentine's Meat-Juice ..... 16

**GASES, APPARATUS, &c.—**  
Oxygen Tent Rental Service ..... 36

**HOSPITAL, &c., FURNITURE—**  
Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd.—  
Dunlopillo Mattresses ..... 34

**HOUSE AGENTS—**  
Bedford & Co. .... 53  
Elliott, Son & Boyton ..... 53

**MINERAL WATERS—**  
Ingram & Royle, Ltd.—  
Vichy-Celestins ..... 16

**MOTOR CARS, TYRES, &c.—**  
Saunders, H. A., Ltd.—Austin Cars 36

**PRINTING & STATIONERY—**  
Easibind Ltd.—Easibinders ..... 3  
Hamiltons—Medical Stationery ..... 38  
Taylor's Typewriter ..... 38  
Waldorf Club Stationery ..... 35

**TAILORING & UNDERCLOTHING—**  
Hall, H.—Medical Service Dress ..... 53

**TOBACCO & CIGARETTES—**  
Rhodian Curly Cut ..... 36

## CHEMISTS, &amp;c.—

Allen & Hanburys Ltd.—  
Bynyn Amara ..... Cover i  
Insulin 'A.B.' ..... 18  
Vapo-Cresolene ..... 22  
Anadin Limited—Anadin ..... 24  
Bayer Products Ltd.—'Luminal' ..... 23  
Beiersdorf Ltd.—Tussipact ..... Cover ii  
Bell & Coyle ..... 9  
Bontalls Ltd.—Queen Face Powder 38  
British Drug Houses Ltd.—  
Anahemin B.D.H. .... 21  
'Caprokol' ..... 17  
Insulin 'A.B.' ..... 18  
Multivite Pellets ..... 15  
Burroughs Wellcome & Co.—  
'Hypoid' Calcium Lævulose ..... 31  
Coates & Cooper Ltd.—Forapin ..... 12  
Continental Laboratories Ltd.—  
Crinex ..... 10  
Duncan, Flockhart & Co.—  
Nasal Creams ..... 18  
Eli Lilly & Co. Ltd.—'Entoral' ..... 25  
Evans Sons Leacher & Webb Ltd.—  
Dusting Powder ..... 17  
Liver Extracts ..... 23  
Throat Pastilles ..... 8  
Fellows Compound Syrup of Hypo-  
phosphites 'Fellows' ..... 10  
Genetson Ltd.—Sana-togen ..... 19  
Glaxo Laboratories Ltd.—Products 33  
Howards & Sons Ltd.—  
Preparations ..... Cover iv  
Johnson & Johnson Ltd.—  
Ortho-gynol ..... 29  
Kaylene Ltd.—  
Kaylene-oil ..... 14  
Magsorbent ..... 27  
Ki-uma Ltd.—  
Antiphlogistic Plasters ..... 38  
Knoll Limited—Dilaudid ..... 9  
Lever Brothers Ltd.—Easogen ..... 30  
Medico-Biological Labs. Ltd.—  
Enterofagos ..... 11  
Organon Laboratories—Pregnyl ..... 33  
Pharmaceutical Specialties Ltd.—  
Arthrytin ..... 19  
Saccharin Corporation Ltd.—  
Preparations ..... 22  
Sharp & Dohme Ltd.—'Caprokol' ..... 17  
Wander, A. Ltd.—'Alasit' & 'Alcolol' 20  
Warner & Co. Ltd.—  
Anusol Suppositories ..... 12

## SURGICAL APPLIANCES—

Coscor & Son Ltd.—  
'Accoson' Sphygmomanometer ..... 34  
Curtis & Son Ltd.—Supports ..... 37  
Cuxson, Gerrard & Co. Ltd.—  
Bandages and Ligatures ..... 13  
Hawksley & Sons, Ltd.—  
Surgical Appliances ..... 5  
Hilliard's Absorbent Bags ..... 8  
Medical Supply Association Ltd.—  
Ophthalmoscope ..... 35  
Robinson & Sons Ltd.—  
'Cestra' Mask ..... 39  
Salt's Surgical Service ..... 32  
Smith & Nephew Ltd.—Elastoplast 32  
Spencer Corsets Ltd.—Corsets ..... 6  
Swann-Morton—Surg. Instruments 38

## X-RAY &amp; ELECTRO-MEDICAL

**APPARATUS—**  
Medical Supply Association Ltd.—  
Bio-Ray Apparatus ..... 35  
Portable X-Rays Ltd.—  
X-Ray Car Service ..... 5  
Terry & Sons Ltd.—  
Anglepoise Lamp ..... 37  
Thermal Syndicate Ltd.—  
Vi-Tan Ultra-Violet Unit ..... 36

**HOTELS & HEALTH RESORTS—**  
Alexandra, Lausanne, Switzerland 41  
Clifton and Dysart Hotels ..... 41

**HYDROS & PRIVATE HOSPITALS—**  
Bournemouth Hydro ..... 41  
Buxton Clinic ..... 39  
Rockside, Matlock ..... 40  
Smedley's Hydro, Matlock ..... 39

**NURSING INSTITUTES—**  
Nurses' Association ..... 56

## CONTRACT PRACTICE &amp; OTHER

APPOINTMENTS—  
IMPORTANT NOTICE—  
RE APPOINTMENTS ..... 51

## HOSPITALS, &amp;c., VACANCIES—

Albert Dock Hospital, E.16. .... 50  
Benenden, National Sanatorium ..... 48  
Birmingham, Ear & Throat Hospital 54  
Birmingham, Queen's Hospital ..... 50  
Blackburn County Borough ..... 46  
Bolton Royal Infirmary ..... 50  
Bradford Royal Infirmary ..... 54  
Brighton, Royal Sussex Co. Hosp. 48, 55  
British Postgraduate Med. School ..... 49  
Caerphilly Urban District Council 46  
Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital 55  
Cancer Hospital (Free), S.W.3. .... 51  
Central London Ophthalmic Hosp. 48  
Charing Cross Hospital, W.C.2. .... 49  
Chelsea Hospital for Women, S.W.3. 51  
Chester, County Mental Hospital ..... 50  
City of Lond. Hos. for Dis. of Heart 54  
City of London Maternity Hospital 48  
Darlington Memorial Hospital ..... 50  
Dewsbury General Infirmary ..... 50  
Dreadnought Hospital, S.E.10. .... 50  
Dublin, Royal Hosp. for Incurables 55  
East Sussex County Council ..... 49  
Edinburgh, Tuberculosis Association 49  
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hosp. 50  
Erith and District Hospital ..... 50  
Exeter, Royal Devon Hospital ..... 50  
Fulham Metropolitan B. rough ..... 49  
Guildford, Royal Surrey Co. Hosp. 49  
Harrogate General Hospital ..... 48  
Huddersfield General Hospital ..... 48  
Hosp. of St. John & St. Elizabeth 48, 51  
Hosp. for Tropical Diseases, W.C.1. 45  
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary ..... 49  
Kesteven County Council ..... 49  
Leicestershire County Council ..... 46  
Leicester Royal Infirmary ..... 50  
Leicestershire County Council ..... 46  
Lincoln County Hospital ..... 50  
Liverpool, Bootle General Hospital 51  
Liverpool Hospital for Consumption 48  
Liverpool Royal Babies' Hospital ..... 48  
Liverpool Royal Children's Hospital 48  
Liverpool, Women's Hospital ..... 49  
London County Council ..... 50  
London Lock Hospital, W.9. .... 50  
Maidenhead Hospital ..... 54  
Maidstone, W. Kent General Hosp. 50  
Manchester, Eccles & Patricroft Hos. 54  
Manchester Royal Children's Hosp. 51  
Manchester Royal Infirmary ..... 55  
Manor House Hospital, N.W.11. .... 43  
Melton, St. Anne's Hospital ..... 49  
Middlesbrough County Borough ..... 46  
Middlesex County Council ..... 46  
Northwood, Mount Vernon Hospital 48  
Norwich, Norfolk Hospital ..... 50  
Nottingham General Hospital ..... 55  
Orkney County Council ..... 45  
Oxford, Radcliffe Infirmary ..... 54  
Peterborough Memorial Hospital ..... 49  
Plymouth City ..... 49  
Plymouth, Prince of Wales's Hosp. 55  
Preston County Borough ..... 46  
Preston Royal Infirmary ..... 43  
Prince of Wales's Gen. Hosp. N.15. 55  
Princess Louise Hospital, W.10. .... 48  
Queen's Hospital, E.2. .... 48  
Rochdale County Borough ..... 46  
Rochdale Infirmary and Dispensary 51  
Rhondda Urban District Council ..... 49  
Rotherham Hospital ..... 54  
Royal Air Force Medical Service ..... 47  
Royal Army Medical Corps ..... 47  
Royal College of Surgeons, England 44  
Royal Eye Hospital, S.E.1. .... 50  
Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital 54  
Royal Masonic Hospital, W.6. .... 55  
St. George's Hospital, S.W.1. .... 48  
St. Leonards, Buchanan Hospital ..... 48  
St. Peter's Hosp. for Stone, W.C.2. 55  
Souththorpe War Memorial Hospital 48  
Smeethwick County Borough ..... 46  
South Shields, Ingham Infirmary 50  
Stafford Borough ..... 46  
Stockport Infirmary ..... 48  
Stoke-on-Trent City ..... 49  
Swansea County Borough ..... 46  
Wakefield, Clayton Hospital ..... 54  
West London Hospital, W.2. .... 49  
Winwick, County Mental Hospital 55

## HOMES &amp; ASYLUMS—

Bailbrook House, Bath ..... 40  
Barnwood House, Gloucester ..... 40  
Brooke House, Clapton, E.5 ..... 39  
Camberwell House, S.E.5. .... 42  
Cheadle Royal, Cheshire ..... 42  
Chiswick House, Pinner ..... 40  
City of London Mental Hospital ..... 41  
Coppice, Nottingham ..... 39  
Court Hall, Kenton, Exeter ..... 39  
Eversfield Chest Hosp., St. Leonards 40  
Fenstanton, Streatham Hill ..... 39  
Grange, near Rotherham ..... 40  
Haydock Lodge, Lancashire ..... 40  
Heigham Hall, Norwich ..... 39  
Hill End, St. Albans ..... 39  
Holme Lacy, Hereford ..... 39  
Home for Epileptics, Maghull ..... 39  
Littleton Hall, Brentwood, Essex ..... 44  
New Lodge Clinic, Windsor Forest 42  
Northumberland House, N.4. .... 40  
Northwoods, Bristol ..... 39  
Old Manor, Salisbury ..... 42  
Peckham House, S.E.15. .... 42  
Resident Patients, Basingstoke ..... 41  
Rockdown House, Basingstoke ..... 42  
St. Andrew's Hosp., Northampton 40  
Shaftesbury House, Liverpool ..... 39  
Springfield House, near Bedford ..... 39  
Stretton House, Shropshire ..... 39  
Wye House, Buxton ..... 40

## INEBRIETY—

Caldecote Hall, near Nuneaton ..... 42  
Old Hill House, Chislehurst ..... 41

## MEDICAL SCHOOLS—

British Postgraduate Med. School 45  
City of London Maternity Hospital 45  
Liverpool School of Tropical Med. 44  
N.E. London Post-Grad. College ..... 45  
Q. Charlotte's Maternity Hospital ..... 45  
Royal National Orthopaedic Hosp. 44

## SANATORIA—

Brompton and Frimley Sanatorium 39  
Cornish Riviera Sanatorium ..... 44  
Cotswold Sanatorium ..... 43  
Grampian Sanatorium ..... 41  
Holloway Sanatorium ..... 39  
Montana Hall, Switzerland ..... 39  
Pendryffryn Hall Sanatorium ..... 43  
Tor-na-Dee Sanatorium ..... 43

## SCHOOLS, &amp;c.—

Colhurst House School, Warford ..... 41  
Paton—Schools for Boys and Girls 44

## SPAS—

Bad Kissingen ..... 43  
Bath ..... 41

## TRANSFER AGENTS—

Bovril Medical Agency, Ltd. .... 60  
British Medical Bureau ..... 57, 58, 59  
Lee & Martin, Ltd. .... 56  
Peacock & Hadley, Ltd. .... 56  
Reynolds & Branson Ltd. .... 56  
The Medical Agency, Ltd. .... 56  
Turner, P., Ltd. .... 56  
Western Medical Agency, Bristol ..... 56

## TUTORS &amp; LECTURERS—

Exams.—Med. Correspond. College ..... 44  
F.R.C.S. Ed. Classes & Post. Courses 45  
Royal College of Physicians, Lond. 44  
Stammering—Miss E. Behnke ..... 44  
University Exam. Postal Institution 44

## ASSISTANTS, PRACTICES, &amp;c.

Assistances Wanted and Vacant ..... 52  
Dispensaries, Medical Posts, etc. .... 52, 53  
Partnerships Wanted and Vacant ..... 52  
Practices Wanted and Vacant ..... 53

## MISCELLANEOUS—

Canadian National Railways ..... 4  
Consulting Rooms, etc., to Let ..... 53  
Frankland, E. J., & Co. Ltd.—  
Pulse Watches, etc. .... 38  
Income Tax Consultant—Hardy ..... 54  
Miscellaneous Sales, etc. .... 53, 54  
Tancred's Studentships ..... 44  
Taxation Services, Ltd. .... 54

## 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.

The **TELEPHONE NUMBER** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The **TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES** are  
**EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Aitiology Westcent, London.**

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER**  
(Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*  
**MEDICAL SECRETARY, Medisecra Westcent, London.**

The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin).

### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### ? Idiosyncrasy to Nitrous Oxide

Dr. MYLES MITCHELL (Yeovil) writes: I administered  $N_2O$  and  $O_2$  to a boy aged 6 years for a dental extraction. He took the gas under protest, but there was nothing noteworthy about the induction. Immediately after the extraction, however, he became pale, pulseless, and flaccid, and his respiration ceased. After a few seconds he gave a sudden deep inspiration, followed by another about thirty seconds later, when his colour and pulse returned. The respiration remained slow and irregular for possibly fifteen minutes, when he passed into a state resembling recovery from a general anaesthetic. He continued thus for an hour with his eyes closed. He then opened his eyes, and the pupils were found to be widely dilated, and there was no reaction to light. He continued thus for a further forty minutes, waving both arms as though actively resisting something. He then passed into a sound natural sleep, out of which he awakened about an hour later. Once awake he seemed very frightened, but was otherwise normal. I should be interested to hear if anyone has had a similar experience, and, if so, whether any explanation could be provided for it. I might add that several other patients were given gas from the same cylinder before this case, and without any untoward results.

#### General Pruritus

Dr. A. HAWKYARD (Leeds) writes: I have a woman patient, aged 50, a sufferer from an intolerable itching of the skin all over the body. I have tried everything in the shape of internal and external remedies with no benefit. There is no skin eruption, but the patient has suffered from polio-myelitis since infancy. Can any member give a helpful hint?

#### Parenteral Bismuth

"M.D." asks for information as to the efficacy of parenteral bismuth therapy for multiple cutaneous warts, and of the most suitable bismuth preparation and dosage, etc., for such cases.

#### Income Tax

##### Purchase of Practice with Book Debts

A. purchases a practice from B. and C., taking over book debts to the nominal amount of £1,171 at £800 cash. At the end of his first year the gross income of the practice is calculated as follows:

Cash collected ... ..	£	486
Add Debts due at end of year ... ..	£	1,741
	£2,227	
Less Debts due at beginning of year ... ..	£	1,171
Gross income ... ..	£	1,056

The income tax inspector contends that the amount of £800 should be substituted for £1,171, which increases the

gross income to £1,427. We understand that this is the considered official view, and that if A. appeals successfully to the Commissioners he might be faced with an appeal to the High Court.

\* The £1,427 seems clearly excessive, because it results from comparing two unlike factors—the *value* of the debts at the beginning with the *nominal amount* at the end of the year. A reasonable basis of settlement would seem to be for the debts, totalling £1,741, to be carefully examined, and a statement made of their value as at the end of the year. The result of a calculation based on that figure would at any rate be equitable, and probably would not differ very much from that shown above. An alternative line of approach would be to contend that the debts taken over are irrelevant—that is, that A.'s legal basis of assessment is the value of the bookings of A.'s work only, seeing that he is assessable as a medical practitioner only; but that might involve a prohibitive amount of work in excluding cash receipts and debts arising out of the old practice from the accounts. The difficulty A. is under in putting his computation forward is that so far as he is concerned the amount of £1,171 did not arise from his services, and the £800 is in fact the amount that those debts cost him. On the whole, we advise a settlement on the basis of bringing down the £1,741 amount to the sum it was really worth at the end of the year.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Newcastle Hospitals

The Secretary-Superintendent of the Middlesex Hospital writes: My attention has been drawn to a serious inaccuracy in a statement on the rating of hospitals made to our last Court of Governors. In a comment upon the wide variation in assessments throughout the country the Newcastle hospitals were cited as among those which were either not rated or were subsidized by municipal authorities. This is not the case. My board regret that this unfortunate slip has caused trouble to the management of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, and would be grateful if you would publish this correction.

#### The Car in Winter: Precaution Against Frost

During the recent spell of cold weather many instances of damage to cars as a result of frozen water in the cooling system have been brought to the notice of the Automobile Association. It is not generally known by motorists that the installation of a thermostatic control—which is a feature becoming popular on the modern car—increases the risk of freezing and actually makes it possible for ice to form in the radiator during the early stages of a journey. A thermostat delays the circulation of water between the radiator and the engine and thus allows the cold air a longer period in which to take effect; this makes it almost imperative to add a suitable anti-freezing mixture to the water to reduce the freezing point during cold weather. The engineering department of the A.A. will gladly advise members of the preparations most suitable for their particular cars.

#### Disclaimer

Dr. LESLIE HOYLE writes from the Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine, University of Manchester: I beg to disclaim responsibility for certain articles about myself and my work on influenza which have appeared in the lay press. Since my appointment as Royce Research Fellow I have been subjected to almost continuous persecution by the Press. On several occasions, when interviews have been refused them, representatives of the Press have attempted to obtain information from my wife, parents, and other relatives. In self-defence I recently consented to give an interview to a certain newspaper on the understanding that I should be informed of the nature of the resulting article. I was subsequently shown a proof, which I edited, but 90 per cent. of the matter which subsequently appeared was not contained in the proof. The name of Dr. C. H. S. Harris has also appeared in connexion with these articles entirely without his consent.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 45, 46, 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 88.