

British Medical Journal

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THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION

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Treatment of Enuresis

Dr. J. BARCROFT ANDERSON (Hampstead) writes: The late Dr. Beaumann of Johannesburg once stated that all the epileptic children that he had treated with a ketogenic diet, and who had been bed-wetters, while they were on this diet ceased to be bed-wetters. I would suggest interpreting this, in part, by Professor Mellanby's remarks in Kenya on August 23rd, 1929, published in your issue of April 12th, 1930 (p. 677), where he speaks of the "harmful factors . . . mostly associated with cereals, and cereal products, so far as present knowledge goes" neutralized by fats containing vitamin A.

"A. P." (Chester) writes: In reply to the question on enuresis by "K. M. C." (May 16th, p. 1032), I have found useful at times a hint which appeared in the *Journal* some years ago. The child should be *thoroughly* roused when taken from bed to pass urine at 10 p.m. The following prescription is sometimes of service:

R. Ext. ergot. liq. (1914)... 3 ij
Ext. glycyrrh. liq. 3 j
Aq. menth. pip. ad 3 iij
Fiat mist.

One drachm should be given each afternoon and evening in spells of three weeks if required.

Dr. W. F. LLOYD (Windsor) also writes: In my experience the only successful method of treating enuresis in children from 5 to 15 years is by hypnotic suggestion.

Dr. I. MOSTYN WILLIAMS (Llandudno) also advises hypnotic suggestion. A similar case to that described by "K. M. C." in a boy of 7, was treated with complete success by hypnotizing him on three occasions and suggesting that he should empty his bladder before retiring and after getting up, but not while asleep in bed. No drugs were prescribed other than a placebo of syrup simplex, and, of course, all organic possibilities had been ruled out.

The Sympathetic Ring

Dr. J. P. JONES (Birmingham) writes: A patient born in India, who at the age of 14 years came to England, of British parentage, yet never really reconciled to English climate and English life, suffers from nervous headaches and prostrations. It occasionally happens that during these attacks her gold wedding ring and her mother's gold wedding ring, both rings being made out of golden guineas, become the colour of platinum. If either ring is taken off the finger and placed on the mantelshelf overnight the golden colour is resumed. On replacing on the hand in a few hours the ring becomes again the colour of platinum. Has anyone else witnessed similar strange mutations of colour? And what can be the chemistry of it?

Income Tax**Employment Abroad**

"J. P. C." is going abroad as M.O. in the employment of a British company. Part of his salary will be paid to him abroad and the balance will be credited to his bank here. He will be home on leave for three months after serving two years abroad.

** For any year in which "J. P. C." can properly be regarded as resident in the United Kingdom he will be liable on the amount of his emoluments. In other years his liability will be restricted to the amount paid here or remitted by him from abroad. If during his absence he maintains a residence here to which he can return he is a "resident" if he returns to the United Kingdom for however short a period in any particular financial year. If he does not maintain a residence a return to this country for a mere three months in two years would not, in our opinion, render him liable to be regarded as a resident, unless there is reason to look upon the foreign appointment as an interruption in his normal professional career rather than the commencement of a different one.

Commission to Locumtenent's Agent

"K." has been refused a deduction for the expense represented by the commissions paid to obtain locumtenent work, and some other expenses also.

** We have always held the view that locumtenent work should not be regarded as an employment (or a series of several employments) having regard to the short duration of a normal period and the freedom from oversight of the work performed. We regard it as a special form of

professional activity, and the earnings of the year as assessable under Schedule D as professional profits. On that basis agent's commission and professional subscriptions are legally deductible.

Cash Basis—Sale of Share in Practice

"PERU" sold a quarter of his practice in 1928, and in 1934 took in a second partner. A few accounts are still being paid for pre-1928 services, and of course a good many for work prior to 1934. Should these payments be included?

** Yes. It has to be remembered that the cash basis is a method of arriving conveniently at the approximate amount of the gross earnings of the practice. If *all* receipts are not included the gross earnings will be understated. When dividing the net assessment between the partners "Peru" should not regard these special receipts as an addition to his share of the profits of the practice; so far as division between the partners is concerned there is no difference between these and other cash receipts.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Teaching of Radiology**

Professor ALEX. LOW, M.D., writes from the Anatomy Department, Marischal College, Aberdeen: In your issue of May 9th I note that in the report of the subcommittee of the Royal Society of Medicine, on the place of radiology in the medical curriculum, no mention is made of this subject being taught at Aberdeen University. I wish to point out that the Anatomy Department here is equipped with a complete x-ray outfit, and that the radiologist, who is on the staff of the department, gives demonstrations to anatomy students six hours a week during each term. In fact Aberdeen was one of the first anatomy schools to have an x-ray outfit, and we have found it extremely stimulating to the students, as it is possible for them to study the movement of joints, the x-ray anatomy of the thorax, and the appearance presented by a barium meal, etc. The radiologist at the Royal Infirmary is also university lecturer on radiology and electrotherapeutics, and before a student can enter for his final examination he must produce a certificate that he has attended a course of instruction in radiology and electrotherapeutics.

Abstracts of Foreign Medical Literature

The Centro Internazionale di Collagamento Medico issues a circular in elegant Latin stating that it will "vulgarize" (of course, in the Prayer Book or Pickwickian sense) medical contributions sent to its office. They will thus be made known to the whole medical world, though no mention is made of the cost to the author or the means by which so wide a distribution will be brought about. The suggestion is admirable in theory, but is it worth while in practice? Every medical congress and most of the societies publish proceedings, and our own pages week by week include a summary of the more important contributions to foreign medical literature. Mr. Ernest Hart, one of the most astute of Editors, published the *London Medical Record* from 1873 to 1887. It summarized foreign medical literature, and a similar task was undertaken by Dr. Anstie and Sir Lauder Brunton in the early years of the *Practitioner*. In neither case was the result a success. The *London Medical Record* ceased to be published, and the *Practitioner* was remodelled.

Medical Golf

The Manchester and District Medical Golfers' Association held its annual competition at Reddish Vale on May 13th. Dr. E. P. Johnson (Bolton) was the winner of the Challenge Cup, which was played for by over 120 members of the society. He played from 7 strokes allowance and returned a net score of 70. Dr. I. R. Duthie (Blackburn) won the Captain's Prize, and there was a tie for the Walter Gold Medal, for the best gross score, between Dr. Johnson and Dr. Duthie (77). The Walter Silver Medal was won by Dr. G. G. Mowat, junr. (Bolton).

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 61 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 58 and 59.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 287.