

British Medical Journal

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Pock Marks

"R. L. M." writes: I recently contracted chicken-pox from a patient. I had a severe attack, which left a number of pocks, especially about the face; several of them suppurated, leaving disfiguring pock marks. I should be grateful for any suggestions as to treatment.

Treatment of Enuresis

Dr. G. A. FERRABY (Worthing) writes in reply to "K. M. C." (May 16th, p. 1032): These children are usually encouraged to micturate frequently in the day time, and the bladder, never fully distended by day, will not tolerate full distension at night, or the infantile habit of frequent micturition has never been checked and the bladder has not undergone its normal development. With older children, short of hypnotic suggestion, it is usually enough to teach them to go to sleep at night in the expectation of waking when the impulse to micturate occurs. Belladonna, sufficient to dilate the pupils and make the initiation of micturition a matter of slight effort instead of great urgency, is almost always effective in enabling the bladder dilatation to be borne. It should be continued for six weeks, the dose being larger in the last three weeks.

Dr. EVELYN F. BEBBINGTON (Northampton) writes: In reply to "K. M. C." I might cite the case of a boy whom I have never seen who was cured by suggestion. In this case it was the mother who was over-fearful of failure, and who thus aggravated the condition in the boy. I had a long talk with her, and pointed out that she must suggest to the boy convincingly in speech and by her attitude that he would be cured and that he was certain of success in time. The result after a few months was so far successful that the mother now says he is completely cured except that after a sea bathe in the summer he might suffer from enuresis the same night.

Dr. ESSIE S. DUNN (Burnley) writes: In an intractable case—a boy aged 8 years—I tried all the routine methods of treatment unsuccessfully. Five weeks ago I suggested that after the bedtime hot bath a cold water douche over the lumbar region should be tried. As before, the boy is picked up to pass water one hour after going to bed and again one and a half hours later. This has produced a gratifying measure of success, enuresis occurring on only three occasions since this treatment was begun. I feel, therefore, that it might be worth a trial.

Bald Patch on Child's Scalp

Dr. C. C. MORGAN (Chester) writes in reply to the inquiry by "M.R.C.S." (May 23rd, p. 1089): I would advise him to try "pomade max," made by Messrs. May, Roberts and Co., Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C. I think if he carefully follows out the instructions he should get the desired result, but it will mean several weeks' perseverance.

Income Tax

"DEDUCTIONS" entered into partnership in January, 1935, with A and B, and paid £200 for drugs, dressings, instruments, etc. Of this £200 £150 was passed on to A and £50 to B. Can C treat the £200 as a deduction for assessment?

** No. It represents a capital payment by him for his share of the stock of drugs, dressings, instruments, etc.; when he leaves the partnership presumably that or some similar sum will be paid back to him. A partnership is regarded for income tax purposes as a distinct entity, and payments by one partner to another do not affect the amount of the partnership profits. Money sunk in the purchase of a share in a practice is capital outlay.

Dependent Relative Allowance

"M. W." has a widowed mother and a delicate aunt as dependent relatives. Is there any legal means by which a greater allowance than £50 can be obtained for the burden of these two dependants?

** Only by entering into a deed, which must be for a period of at least seven years, under which "M. W." is legally bound to pay a certain annual amount to the dependants or their trustees. If that is done income tax at standard rate can be deducted by "M. W." from the periodical payments, and the tax can be reclaimed by the two dependants. "M. W." would lose the existing allowance of £50, and probably some unearned income relief. Legal advice should be obtained in drawing up the deed to ensure that the grant of income fulfils the conditions laid down in Section 20 of the Finance Act, 1922.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A Psychological Film

It is not often that a popular film dealing with a medical subject can be taken seriously by the profession. An exception is the film, produced in Switzerland and now being shown in London at the Academy Cinema, entitled *Die Ewige Maske* (The Eternal Mask). While open to criticism in certain medical details, it is a serious attempt to present to the layman the arguments for and against the use of psychotherapy in certain cases of emotional crisis. The general atmosphere of hospital life has been well caught, and the film is something of a technical achievement, especially in its portrayal of the subconscious mind. The dream state is symbolized by globules of light filtering across the vision of the patient, thus differentiating quite clearly to the spectator the scenes of reality and those which are occurring in the subconscious only. It is interesting to see how far the screen can be employed in this direction and how much can be conveyed visually by subtle camera work. It opens up a field for further experiment. The directors announce it in the programme as "a striking study in psycho-analysis," but it has nothing to do with psycho-analysis properly so-called.

A Veteran Cyder Maker

The death has occurred at Attleborough, in his ninety-fifth year, of Mr. William Gaymer, chairman and joint managing director of Wm. Gaymer and Son, Ltd., cyder makers. In the course of eighty years in business he had seen the development of his firm from a small local industry to one with a world-wide distribution. One of his oldest friends was the late Sir Dyce Duckworth, physician to St. Bartholomew's.

Medical Golf

The spring meeting of the Sussex Medical and Dental Golfing Society will be held on the links of the West Sussex Golf Club, Pulborough, on Sunday, June 14th. Those interested who have not received notices should communicate with the honorary secretary, 16, The Drive, Hove, 3.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 59 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 56 and 57.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 299.