

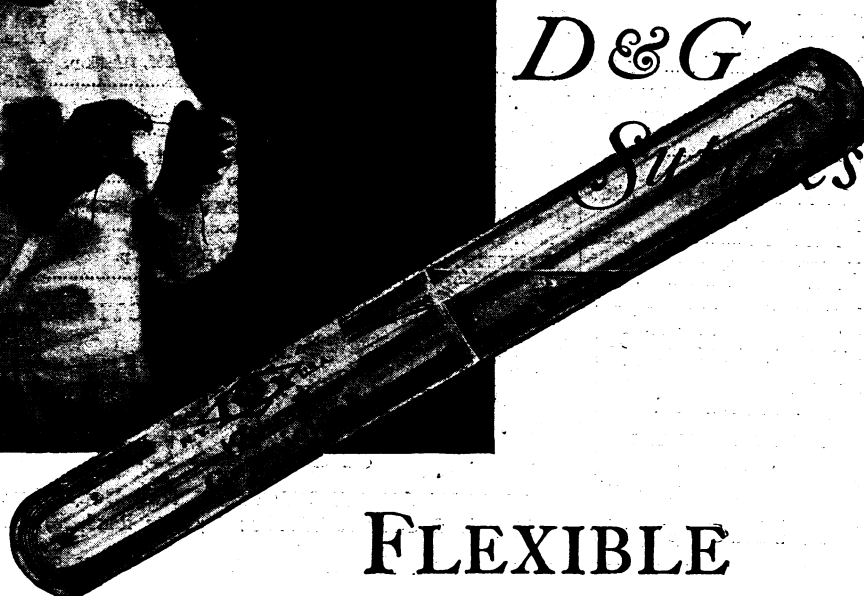
BRANDY
for
ILLNESS
means
MARTELL

A Necessity
in
The Hospital
The Nursing Home
The Sick Room

Invaluable
to
The Physician
The Surgeon
The Patient.



The boilable grade is unusually flexible for boilable catgut; the non-boilable grade is extremely flexible.



FLEXIBLE

C. F. THACKRAY ▽ PARK STREET, LEEDS ▽ 119 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1

THE eighth annual meeting of the Mental Hospitals Association will be held in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall, London, on Wednesday, July 14th, at 11 a.m.

THE thirteenth congress of French-speaking alienists and neurologists, which will be held in Geneva and Lausanne in the first week in August, will coincide with the centenary of Pinel's death, and will have as presidents one of his descendants (Dr. Semelaigne of Paris) and Professor Long of Geneva. The following subjects will be discussed; Schizophrenia, introduced by Professors Bleuler of Zürich and Claude of Paris; Babinski's sign, its causes, mechanism, and significance, introduced by Professor Claude; the treatment of mental diseases by work, introduced by Professor Ladame of Geneva and Dr. Demay of Clermont. The subscription for members of the congress will be 30 French francs.

A FURTHER series of tours has been arranged by the *Bruxelles-Médical* for the autumn. From August 31st to September 21st a cruise to the Canary Islands will include visits to Bilbao, Vigo, Oporto, Las Palmas, Almería, or alternatively Casablanca and Tangiers and Marseilles; the charge to medical practitioners for the complete journey will be £26. Visits to the French ports are being organized during August and September lasting fifteen to eighteen days at the cost of 1,800 francs. Two Mediterranean cruises for university students will be organized in August and September, visiting Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Greece, and Italy; the charge for the first cruise of twenty-six days will be 1,800 French francs, and for the second—lasting thirty days—2,100 francs. Further information may be obtained from the *Bruxelles-Médical*, at the Belgian office of the Compagnies Françaises de Navigation, 29, Boulevard Adolphe Max, Brussels.

THE thirty-sixth French Congress of Surgery will be held at the Paris Faculty of Medicine, under the presidency of Professor J. L. Faure, from October 4th to 9th, when the following subjects will be discussed: (1) Pathology of the semilunar cartilages, introduced by MM. Mouchet of Paris and Tavernier of Lyons; (2) Conservative operations in inflammatory diseases of the adnexa, introduced by MM. Gervais de Rouville of Montpellier and Mocquot of Paris; (3) Treatment of active gonococcal arthritis, introduced by MM. Michel of Nancy and Mondor of Paris.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **THE EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association 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.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

INCOME TAX.

Deduction for Cost of Professional Rooms.

"A. R." has for many years been allowed to deduct two-thirds of his rent and rates as incurred for professional purposes; the local inspector of taxes has now informed him that he will be allowed one-third only in future.

* * Two-thirds was the old *maximum* proportion. The test is what is reasonable in the circumstances of each case, and it has to be admitted that that is usually excessive in the case of a provincial town. If, for instance, "A. R.'s" combined rent and rates amount to £150 per annum, it is unlikely that £50 only

(or any amount near that figure) would reasonably cover the non-professional portions of the house and garden. But whether one-third is enough we cannot say. It may be worth while pointing out to the inspector that the garage is wholly (or almost wholly) used for professional purposes and that the ground floor, where presumably "A. R." has his waiting and consulting rooms, is always reckoned by valuers to be by far the most valuable portion of a house.

Private Use of Car.

"H. L." explains that (excluding holiday running, which is separately recorded) he uses his car privately to the probable extent of 300 miles a year, and that on that basis the inspector of taxes proposes to disallow his claim to expenses to the extent of from £20 to £50, according to the total amount expended in the year.

* * It must be admitted that any expense which "H. L." has incurred for non-professional purposes cannot properly be deducted in his income tax return, and that it is not uncommon for the taxing authorities to insist on the exclusion of such expenses. At the same time the amounts suggested seem excessive on the mileage basis quoted. (Perhaps "H. L." has not made it clear to the inspector that his holiday expenses have not appeared in his original claim?) There are some expenses (cost of garaging and licence, for instance) which are not increased by private use of a car, and we are of opinion that the whole of such expenses should be allowed.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

DUPUYTREN'S CONTRACTION.

DR. T. M. ALLISON (Newcastle-on-Tyne) writes with reference to the annotation on "The machine and the man" (p. 839): I regard Dupuytren's contraction as a gouty fibrosis; I have never seen it except in a person who drinks beer, not necessarily to excess. The use of certain tools may irritate the hands, but the contraction, in my opinion, only occurs in gouty subjects.

CALCIUM IN OVARIAN INSUFFICIENCY.

"OBSERVER," referring to the recommendation by Crainicianu of calcium in ovarian insufficiency (*Epitome*, June 26th, 1926, para. 652), asks what evidence there is of a deficiency of calcium in hypofunction of the ovaries; an excess of calcium might, he thinks, readily lessen the function of the ovaries, as well as that of the thyroid. Our correspondent adds: We know that the ovaries stimulate calcium metabolism, and also (as has been shown by Professor Dixon) the secretion of the pituitary body; but how calcium could stimulate the ovaries requires some explanation. In the treatment of osteomalacia the removal of the ovaries has long been practised. There is no use in introducing huge doses of calcium lactate into the digestive tract unless its absorption can be ensured, and it is known that only a small amount of calcium (fortunately) can be introduced into the system. If it were otherwise many patients would become like Lot's wife.

HAFFKINE'S PROPHYLACTIC FLUID.

WITH reference to the proposed improvement of Haffkine's prophylactic fluid by using the clear filtrate and rejecting the sediment, Dr. S. MALLANNAH (Hyderabad, Deccan) writes: Up to the present it has been generally thought that the protection produced by Haffkine's fluid is due to the action of dead plague bacilli and their products, and hence it is directed that the bottles be well shaken before use, so that both dead bacteria and their products are used in inoculation. In 1900 I formed and published conclusions based on clinical and experimental observations to the effect that the filtrate of Haffkine's fluid, when free from sediment containing dead plague germs, was not only efficacious in producing immunity, but that it was better than the whole fluid, since it did not cause indurations at the site of injection (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, 1900, i, p. 1155). These indurations or lumps generally last for three or four months and are slowly absorbed. They contain sterile pus, as I have demonstrated. I have shown also that rabbits inoculated with whole Haffkine's fluid lose weight during the absorption of these indurations. Finding that the filtrate has a better protective power and does not produce hard lumps, my usual procedure in using Haffkine's fluid is as follows. The bottles, after being well shaken, are set aside for some days with the pointed ends directed upwards. After a few days the fluid becomes quite clear, and at the bottom there is an ash-coloured sediment, which consists of dead plague bacilli. I withdraw the clear supernatant fluid and use it for injections, rejecting the sediment. With this procedure I have obtained better results and less reactions without producing any induration. One great advantage in using the filtrate, or clear supernatant fluid, only, is that contamination can be easily detected, since it causes turbidity in the fluid; in such a case the bottle should be rejected.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 39, 40, 41, 44, and 45 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 42 and 43.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 86.