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assures positive sterility



Heat Sterilized

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

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The Surgeon
The Patient.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

PAIN AFTER ARTIFICIAL MENOPAUSE.

"GLENSTRAL" writes: In reply to "D. K. M. D." (July 31st, p. 235), from the data which he gives, I should imagine his patient has suffered from visceroptosis, and consequently some degree of pelvic floor prolapse, since puberty. I would suggest posterior colporrhaphy and ventral fixation of the uterus, as well as the wearing of a Curtis support.

INCOME TAX.

Production of Accounts.

"J. O. R." complied with the request of the local inspector of taxes to send him copies of the accounts of his practice for the past three years; he has since received a request to state the names and addresses of the locumtenents whose remuneration is included in the expenses.

* * Probably the official in question desires the information, not with a view to verifying our correspondent's accounts, but to see that the locumtenents have accounted for any liability there may be on their part. The request is one which can be enforced as regards any locumtenents who may have had other employment in the same financial year. No doubt they have accounted for their own liability, and the request may, we think, be met.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

OPEN AIR FOR COWS.

FORESEEING the difficulties that were coming for arable farming a Berkshire farmer, Mr. A. J. Hosier, resolved to take to grazing and purchased a farm of 1,000 acres on the Wiltshire Downs, where he put into practice certain new principles he had thought out. He determined to specialize in milk production on an all-grass holding, to keep his cows out night and day (winter and summer), to give up mixed husbandry, and to that end to bring such tillage land as there was on the farm under grass. His only crop is hay, and the only additional food he purchases is cake. Every calf is sold. He buys heifers, which are brought into milk at an early age (about 2 years and 9 months), and sold in their prime as cows. The average yield of milk is good—about 720 gallons. The Agricultural Correspondent of the *Times* gives a most optimistic account of the financial results and of the good health of the cows. Perhaps the most novel feature is that instead of bringing in the cows to be milked in sheds a movable milking establishment is taken to them. It is moved about to suit the herds and to ensure equal distribution of manure and the treading of the soil that is so effective in breaking up the matted covering of old grass on the surface. By this plan, moreover, the cost of carting manure is saved. No pails are used and the cows are milked by a machine; provision for the cleaning and sterilizing of the milking apparatus, and the pipes through which the milk passes to the churns, is part of the movable establishment. The cows, enticed by their customary ration of cake, come at stated times into a sort of compound and there they take their turn in the milking stalls. They receive their allowance of cake while the milking machine is drawing the milk from them. They are given 4 lb. of concentrates to a gallon of milk, and in winter at the rate of 14 lb. of hay a day. For ease of feeding the hayricks are built in the middle of the fields.

Mr. Hosier attributes the exceptional health of his cows in winter to the altitude of their pastures (up to 870 ft. above the sea), which are above the mists and fogs of the valleys. The farm is now carrying 500 cattle, including 180 cows in milk. The number of cattle could be increased by 100, and probably will be next year. In that case the number of cattle on the farm will be very likely as large as that of the sheep formerly maintained on the same area. The experiment is of great interest to agriculturists, but many of the details essential to follow are not here mentioned. It is also of concern to public health, for it is the last word in cleanliness of milking, and, so far as experience at present goes, in the healthiness of the cows.

CURIOSITIES OF MEDICAL HISTORY.

DR. DAN MCKENZIE is already well known as a graceful writer on non-medical as well as professional themes. His latest contribution is a paper on some curiosities of medical history, read before the Newcastle-on-Tyne and Northern Counties Medical Society last December, which will not tarnish his reputation. In this paper he propounded sixteen questions on medical folk-lore, some of which he discussed in detail. It is interesting to see that in answering the question, "Why ground skull bone cures epilepsy," Dr. McKenzie quotes Paracelsus as saying: "There is a bone in the head called the centrum. If it is drunk it cures the disease. This bone is not more than a kreutzer broad; it is somewhat angular, bifid posteriorly, and is not found in every skull." This bone, according to Dr. McKenzie, is obviously the vomer. Perhaps such an interpretation comes naturally to a rhinologist, but to us it seems rather far-fetched. The average student usually finds the vomer an elusive bone, and we cannot think that it was likely to be chosen as a charm in the days of Paracelsus. Certainly it could not be used as an autogenous medicament. Would not the description apply better to one of the ossa triquetra or wormian bones, whose situation lies open to operation in the living by so-called trephining or scraping? We offer this suggestion to Dr. McKenzie with due diffidence. The editor of a medical journal in the past seems to have treated him badly and exposed his own ignorance when he wrote on the margin of a rejected contribution, "Never heard of such a doctrine," apropos of the doctrine of signatures. We thank God that we are not as other editors may have been, for we discussed the doctrine of signatures in a leading article on August 11th, 1923. One more criticism is suggested by this interesting paper. In discussing what happened to the Assyrian who came down like a wolf on the fold, the meaning of the word *emerod* comes in question. The Oxford Dictionary gives *haemorrhoid* as the modern equivalent, but to make a convincing golden image of a pile, whether internal or external, would seem a task of some difficulty. Dr. McKenzie accepts the suggestion that the emerods were really plague buboes, but it would not be easy to make recognizable images even of these. The origin and purpose of ritual circumcision, the powers of fasting, spittle, and the Hawaiian god of abortion, are some of the other topics treated in this paper. "Quot homines, tot sententiae" might well be expanded into "So many countries, so many beliefs." To spit upon a person is in Europe a contemptuous insult and a breach of good manners, yet in some African tribes it is a mark of friendship and high esteem, for

"... the world is wondrous large—seven seas from marge to marge—
And it holds a vast of various kinds of man;
And the wildest dreams of Kew are the facts of Khatmandhu,
And the crimes of Clapham chaste in Martaban."

CHILD WELFARE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE national importance of paying attention to the health of infants and children received further practical recognition in the United States in 1919, when a division of the State Board of Health was created to deal with child hygiene. In 1921, with the passing of the Federal Maternity and Infancy Act, Federal aid became available for those States—forty-four out of forty-nine—which accepted the provisions of what is known as the Sheppard-Towner Act. The issue of the *Medical Woman's Journal* (Cincinnati) for June contains the first instalment of a series of articles on the work in the various States under this Act, which encourages the study of the causes of infantile mortality and the control of the diseases of infancy and childhood. The report of the work in Missouri shows that birth registration has been considerably improved, and that demonstrations and conferences have been arranged in ninety-seven counties of this State, where an appeal is being made for a full-time health service. There has been a decline in the infantile mortality from 82 per 1,000 live births in 1919 to 69 in 1924. In Rhode Island a systematic follow-up of all the infants from birth to 5 years is being organized and pre-natal classes are being extensively held. The *Medical Woman's Journal*, which appears monthly, is devoted primarily to recording the work of medical women throughout the world, and the June issue includes reports on the American Hospital in Paris, and the twelfth annual convention of the Medical Women's Association, including its work in Russia, Greece, Serbia, Japan, and Mexico.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 30, 31, 34, and 35 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 32 and 33. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 112.