



INFLAMED GLANDS

following scarlatina or measles, mumps or tonsillitis, find quick relief from a hot poultice of

Antiphlogistine
TRADE MARK

applied according to the Doctor's directions, and allowed to remain on from 12 to 24 hours—then renewed as often as necessary.

Antiphlogistine relieves pain, swelling, and inflammation, and has no harmful effects.

THE DENVER CHEMICAL MFG. CO.
LONDON, E.3.

Laboratories: NEW YORK, BERLIN, PARIS, SYDNEY, MONTREAL, FLORENCE, BARCELONA, MEXICO CITY, BUENOS AIRES.

name, and need not commit us to any nosological definition." Again, the term "ague," so often used at that time, is, he says, no more decisive for the nosological character than the term "influenza"; it meant originally a sharp fever (*febris acuta*). In regard to mortality among the clergy, he quotes Stow's statement that in the harvest of 1558 "quartan agues continued in like manner, or more vehemently than they had done the last year passed, wherethrough died many old people and specially priests."

INCOME TAX. Cash Basis.

"W. R." purchased a practice many years ago and in the early years paid income tax on the full earning value of the practice, which was, of course, less than the cash value. He has now retired, "and is asked to pay on what he receives."

* * We agree that this is incorrect. As from the date he ceased to carry on the practice his income tax liability as a practitioner ceased and he is not liable to tax, in spite of the fact that he is still collecting book debts. If it is contended that these should be thrown back into the earlier years when he was practising, the answer is that receipts should also be thrown back out of those years, and so on, until the ultimate adjustment is reached in the years when he paid on more than his receipts.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

SUNBURN AND MOSQUITOS.

MANY a summer holiday in the mountains has been spoilt by mosquitos and other biting flies, and by sunburn, which is apt to become a serious matter with some people, especially blondes. Professor J. A. NIXON of Bristol recently told us of some precautions which he had found effective in the Pyrenees this summer. He writes:

My colleague Dr. A. T. Todd suggested that quinine might prevent sunburn, and Mr. E. Lloyd (assistant pharmacist at the Bristol Royal Infirmary) told me that cod-liver oil would keep off mosquitos and other biting flies. The smell of the cod-liver oil may at first be disagreeable, but one gets used to it in a few minutes, and the comfort of being able to go through the Pyrenean forests unbitten and unattended by the usual host of flies is enough to outweigh the disadvantages. Freedom from sunburn added greatly to our enjoyment of the mountains. I had previously seen how quinine protected from the sun's rays in a case of pellagra under Dr. Todd's care. For travelling we packed the collapsible tube containing the ointment inside one of our climbing boots, where it could do no harm if it leaked. The formula is: Quinine acid hydrochloride, 5 parts (dissolved in 2 of water); anhydrous wool fat, 70 parts; cod-liver oil, 25 parts; "ionone," q.s. The quinine is dissolved in water and added to the wool fat, next the cod-liver oil is mixed with it, and finally "ionone" (a violet scent) is put in to disguise the smell of the cod-liver oil.

We have been informed by another friend that cod-liver oil is as effective for oiling the surface of small ponds, water-butts, and so on, to control the development of mosquito larvae as paraffin, and does not make the water distasteful to cattle.

JAMES GRAHAM.

DR. GEORGE PERNET (London, W.C.) writes: In the valuable and entertaining quack number published by the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in 1911 there is an illustration (page 1271) purporting to represent James Graham, the quack, on Adelphi Terrace. But in a little book with the title *Edinburgh Life in the Eighteenth Century* (selected and arranged from "Captain Topham's Letters"; a new edition, but without a date; William Brown, Edinburgh), the same picture appears as "Crossing the North Bridge in a high wind." The stoue parapet of the bridge fits in with the North Bridge of Auld Reekie; Adelphi Terrace is guarded by railings. These are shown in an old print of Adelphi Terrace by Carey in the possession of the Savage Club.

JOHN GRAUNT.

"E. M. L." writes: In "Nova et Vetera" in the JOURNAL of October 9th, on "The Bills of Mortality," it was erroneously stated on p. 645 that Graunt's book on this subject was not published till 1665, yet on p. 646 it is correctly stated that Pepys bought a copy in 1662. There were four editions or impressions of the *Observations* published between 1662 and 1665, all of which seem to have contained the epistle dedicatory to Lord Truro (John Robartes, afterwards Viscount Bodmin and Earl of Radnor), which was dated January 25th, 1661-62. There was also a piratical edition published by Samuel Speed under the title of *Reflections on the Weekly Bills of Mortality*, also in 1665. All these were published as by John Graunt, yet there have not been wanting those who attributed the authorship to Graunt's friend, Sir William Petty. The whole question of the authorship has been exhaustively dealt with by Dr. C. H. Hull of Cornell University in his book, *The Economic Writings of Sir William Petty* (Cambridge University Press, 1899); he came to the conclusion that Graunt was the author of the *Observations*. A strange contradiction is to be found in the second epistle dedicatory to Graunt's book addressed to Sir Robert Moray, President of the Royal Society, in which Graunt states, referring to that society,

"altho I am none of your number, nor have the least ambition to be so, otherwise then (sic) to become able for your service." Yet, on the title page of the same edition (published in 1665), he is described as "John Graunt, Fellow of the Royal Society." Moreover, his name appears on the second page of signatures of the persons who, on December 5th, 1660, resolved to form a society for promoting experimental philosophy, together with those of John Driden (sic), Francis Glisson, the Duke of Buckingham, and other distinguished persons (see "The Signatures in the First Journal Book, etc., with a Preface by Sir Archibald Geikie"), and he was one of the original Fellows elected on May 20th, 1663.

ERADICATION OF FLEAS FROM ROOMS.

DR. RAWEL CHAND SURI (Rawalpindi), in reply to the inquiry by "P. S. H." (July 31st, p. 235) about the extermination of fleas in old buildings, suggests that burning cresol in the rooms with all apertures closed would be effective. A quantity of 3 oz. is required for a room 10 ft. in length, height, and width. As an alternative he advises spraying the room thrice a day for two or three days with "Flit," an insecticide prepared by the Standard Oil Company.

CALENDAR REFORM.

FOLLOWING the example of Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII, the League of Nations is setting about the reform of the calendar. The recent Assembly received a report on the subject from a committee of experts, chiefly representative of academies and observatories, which had been set up by the League's advisory commission on communications and transit. This committee has ignored the more ambitious schemes of reform suggested. It is desired in some quarters that the year should begin on what is now December 22nd, so that the astronomical and civil year may correspond. The committee felt, however, that while this would produce a certain scientific satisfaction, it would involve very great disturbance, and seriously affect comparative economic and social statistics. The committee has therefore confined its attention to methods of securing as much equality as possible in the divisions of the year. The fact that a month may have anything from twenty-eight to thirty-one days is unfortunate from a statistical point of view, and makes constant adjustment necessary in insurance and interest calculations, to mention no others. One method which is favoured by many commercial concerns, including the British railway companies, is to have a year of thirteen months, each month having twenty-eight days; but this, while very convenient for monthly statistics, would interfere unduly with quarterly and half-yearly reckonings, and, moreover, would make a comparison of past and future dates extremely difficult. The committee favours the plan of making each quarter consist of two months of thirty days and a third month of thirty-one days. This would make all the quarters correspond in respect to the days of the week. For example, if January 1st was on a Sunday, February 1st would be on a Tuesday, and March 1st on a Thursday, and all the ensuing months would follow the same order. All these systems, of course, leave out of account one odd day (in leap year two days), and the question where the odd day shall be intercalated is one on which there are many opinions. The majority of opinions would make the odd day the first day of the year, and place it outside the scheme of weeks and months. The committee has also addressed itself to the question of fixing the date of Easter. At present the date of Easter may vary within a period of thirty-five days, which is inconvenient in many respects, leading, for instance, to inequality in university terms and in law sittings. It appears from the committee's investigations that no strong objection to change would be raised in any important ecclesiastical quarter, though the Roman Catholic hierarchy would need to be assured that there was a universal advantage before sanctioning such a departure from tradition. The date most convenient for a stabilized Easter is held by the committee to be the second Sunday of April or, better still, to avoid occasional clashing with other festivals, the Sunday following the second Saturday. The report of the committee was blessed in an absent-minded way by the Assembly, and was remitted to the various governments with a suggestion that national committees of inquiry should be set up, representing the various commercial and other interests concerned, and that public opinion should be elicited with a view to arriving at some generally acceptable policy, for which the recommendations of this committee may serve as a starting-point.

AN UNDELIVERED BOOK.

A CORRESPONDENT in Southport informs us that on August 20th he paid 7s. 6d. for a book to a man who represented that he was selling books on behalf of the Oxford Press. The book has not been received and letters to the address given on the receipt (W. P. Varsie, 54, Falcon Avenue, Edinburgh) have not been acknowledged. Our correspondent offers no defence for paying the money before receiving the book, but thinks that his experience may serve as a warning to others.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 175.