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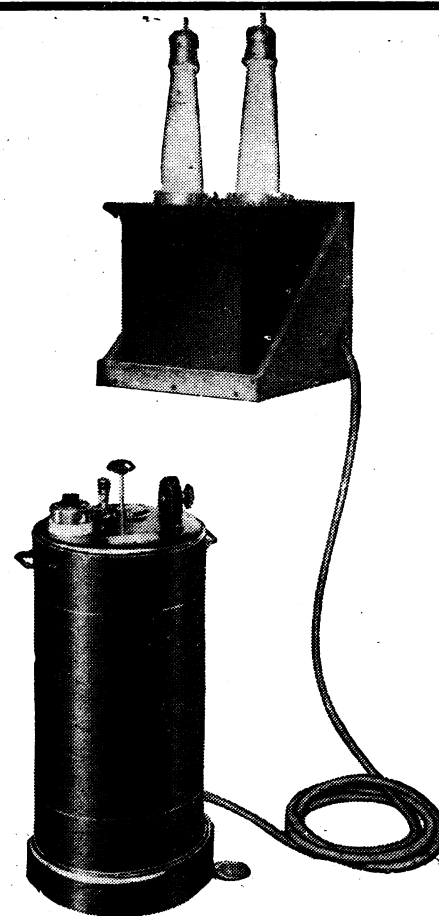
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OXALURIA.

"PERPLEXED" asks for advice in the treatment of a case of oxaluria in a girl of 18, who has attacks every two or three weeks. She has been twice in hospital, and cystoscope, x rays, and passage of ureteral catheters, etc., revealed no stone. Urine negative, except large quantities of oxalates. Dieting, acid sodium phosphate, dilute hydrochloric acid, and alkalis have all been tried without effect.

FLOWERS IN SICK ROOMS.

"ABALONE" asks whether there is any scientific ground for the belief, which seems to be widespread amongst nurses, that either cut flowers or flowers in pots are injurious in sick rooms at night, and should be removed at sundown. Is it not a fact that, like other forms of vegetation, they tend to absorb CO₂ and excrete oxygen, in both light and darkness, and is there any question of injurious exhalation from flowers?

RECURRENT EPISTAXIS.

Dr. ARNOLD FERGUSON (Jersey) writes in reply to Dr. Steele's query regarding the treatment of his case of epistaxis: I would advise him to give his little patient an injection of antidiphtheritic serum. This immensely shortens the period of coagulation. I have always used it with the most happy results in similar cases.

FACIAL ACNE.

Dr. ELIZABETH M. ANDERSON (London) writes in reply to "F.R.C.P." (JOURNAL, June 25th, p. 1172): I have treated a large number of cases of facial acne by means of ultra-violet light, and have not failed to get a favourable response in any case. The inquirer's technique may possibly be at fault. I should advise perseverance with ultra-violet rays, giving brisk doses, and not repeating until the reaction from the preceding doses has disappeared. Intensive dosage to each pustule may best be administered with a "Kromayer" lamp and quartz rod. Internal treatment with fresh yeast and calcium sulphide is advisable.

Dr. JAMES HASSON (London) writes in reply to "F.R.C.P.": The best result is obtained with the following treatment: (1) If the form of acne is "rosacea," x-ray therapy will secure a rapid and considerable improvement. From half to one pastille dose at each sitting, and from three to four sittings at intervals of five to six weeks. Vaccines are absolutely useless in this form of acne, but as the majority of these patients are "hypochlorhydric," it will be necessary to recommend the ingestion of 3 grams of HCl a day, diluted in about a litre of water. One glass of the solution after each meal. (2) If the form of acne is "vulgaris," x-ray treatment is specially suitable in those cases which constantly recur and defy every other form of treatment; frequently one application is sufficient to cause disappearance of the eruption, but old acne scars are not influenced. Here, again, the HCl solution will be very useful too. Large nodules must be punctured and washed by Veyrières's method, called "la douche filiforme." This is a very intelligent method of "cureting," and is absolutely harmless.

Dr. E. CURNOW PLUMMER (London) writes: I have had good results in obstinate cases from the local use of an antiviral (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of June 4th, "Local immunization in sepsis"). The antiviral I have used is prepared by the Drug and Chemical Corporation, Ltd., 204-6, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Dr. A. HAWKYARD (Leeds) writes: I have had good results by using Dr. Crowe's (Harrogate) S.A.F. It is an antiviral and is applied externally. Reynolds and Branson, Ltd., Leeds, are the agents.

ISSUE OF NEAR KINDRED.

"SCRUTATOR" asks for references to authenticated instances in modern times of a child born through incestuous union between a father and his own daughter. His search through books on medical jurisprudence, etc., has been fruitless.

* * It is known that there is no reason why the actual birth of a child or development of pregnancy should not result from incestuous union between a father and his daughter; consequently the point is of little forensic interest, and rarely referred to in reports of cases. The following are cases in which a child was born or a note that pregnancy resulted was made:—(1) R. v. McColl, Glasgow Circuit Court, 1897: Glaister, *Textbook of Forensic Medicine*, p. 493, states that the daughter was pregnant. (2) Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis*, Case 195, reports that daughter was pregnant. (3) R. v. Maclean, December, 1924, High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh: Daughter gave birth to living child, parentage of which was admitted by girl's father. Both convicted, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment and five years' penal servitude respectively. (4) R. v. Pinkman, August, 1926, High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh: Girl of 16 gave birth to child, parentage of which was admitted by grandfather, who was convicted and sentenced.

TREATMENT OF VARICOSE VEINS BY INJECTION.

"J. F. E." asks for advice as to the anaesthetic to use with a 40 per cent. solution of sodium salicylate, in the treatment of varicose veins by injection; 2 c.cm. are given. Is novocain, 1/2 grain with each injection, to be recommended? Without an anaesthetic the injection has been followed by much pain and a tight feeling in the leg; the results have been excellent, a thrombus, 4 in. to 5 in. in length, being obtained, with complete

obliteration of the vein. The pain passed off in about five days. With quinine bihydrochloride my results were not so good.

* * We are advised that no local anaesthesia should be used, and that 1 c.cm. of a 20 per cent. solution of sodium chloride should be injected into an inch length of a vein previously emptied, and kept so for about one minute after the injection. If local anaesthesia is used, 1/2 per cent. novocain solution has been advised.

INCOME TAX.

Assessment as Assistant.

"J. A." commenced his assistantship on May 10th, 1926, and received £183 6s. 8d. for the period to April 5th, 1927. He has been assessed accordingly, less apparently £15 as claimed for travelling expenses, the total duty payable being 10s.

* * The 10s. is correct, and should be paid as demanded. With regard to 1927-28, "J. A." is assessable on the income for that year, so far as employment is concerned, and the simplest course is to make a return on the basis that his present rate of remuneration will continue, and to apply for an adjustment if and when he joins his principal in partnership.

Motor Car Expenses.

"A. P." and his wife held appointments in respect of which they received travelling allowances, 4d. a mile and £100 per annum respectively. These allowances have proved insufficient to cover depreciation. Can any claim be made for an income tax allowance.

* * Depreciation as a specific allowance is not due in respect of the earnings of employment. The only deduction claimable is the amount expended wholly, exclusively, and necessarily in the performance of the duties of the office, or, in the actual circumstances, of the excess of that amount over the allowances received from the employing authority. If "A. P." can satisfy the local income tax authorities that there is such an excess he will, no doubt, receive the allowance, but as in effect he will be attacking the adequacy of the authority's grant, he is not perhaps likely to succeed.

"M. M." bought a 12-h.p. car in 1920 for £750, selling it for £138 in 1926, when he bought a 9-h.p. car for £225.

* * The actual cost of replacement is £225-£138=£87, and no more than that sum can be treated as a professional expense for income tax purposes. Apparently "M. M." did not claim depreciation allowance in respect of the old car, and on technical grounds there is in that case a possible objection to the grant of the deduction of the £87 at the same time as the depreciation allowance of 15 or 20 per cent. in respect of the £225—the cost of the new car. We advise "M. M." to make sure of the latter allowance and obtain the former if he can agree it with the local official.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

MENSTRUATION DURING PREGNANCY.

Dr. I. CHESSEY (Cinderford, Glos) writes: In September, 1926, a girl, aged 17, became pregnant. On this date and during the succeeding three months menstruation ceased, but in January, 1927, it commenced and appeared again each month until June 16th, when she gave birth to a full-time female infant. All stages of labour were unattended by pain.

ZINC IONIZATION IN OTITIS MEDIA.

Dr. W. E. CROSBIE (Liverpool) writes: In my article on "Zinc ionization in the treatment of suppurative otitis media" (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, May 21st, p. 918) I stated that the technique used was that described by Friel. I find that it differs in one point, as Dr. Friel uses a much weaker solution of zinc sulphate than that (2 per cent.) mentioned by me.

INFLAMMABLE EYE SHADES AND ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT CLINICS.

Dr. CHRISTINA BARROWMAN (Newcastle) desires to call attention to the danger of using celluloid shades for protecting the eyes of patients when under treatment by carbon arc lamps. She found such shades in use recently in a foreign clinic, and ascertained by experiment that they were highly inflammable, flaring instantaneously. With the quartz mercury lamp the danger would be absent; shades of a non-combustible material are cheap and easily obtained. She suggests that firms dealing with accessories for actinotherapy would be well advised only to supply non-inflammable eye shades.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 38, 39, 42, 43, and 44 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 40 and 41. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 7.

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2. Diseases of the Kidneys: Acute Nephritis chronic interstitial nephritis with high blood pressure.

3. Diseases of the Nervous System: Epilepsy, Mania, Neurasthenia, Psychasthenia, Hysteria, Insomnia, Organic diseases of the nervous system, Apoplexy, Sympathicotonia (Grave's disease).

4. Diseases of the Muscles: Tetanus, Tetany, Tremor, Convulsions, Myoclonia.

5. Diseases of Metabolism: Uric Acid Diathesis (Gout and Lithuria), especially if associated with, Myocarditis, Diabetes Mellitus.

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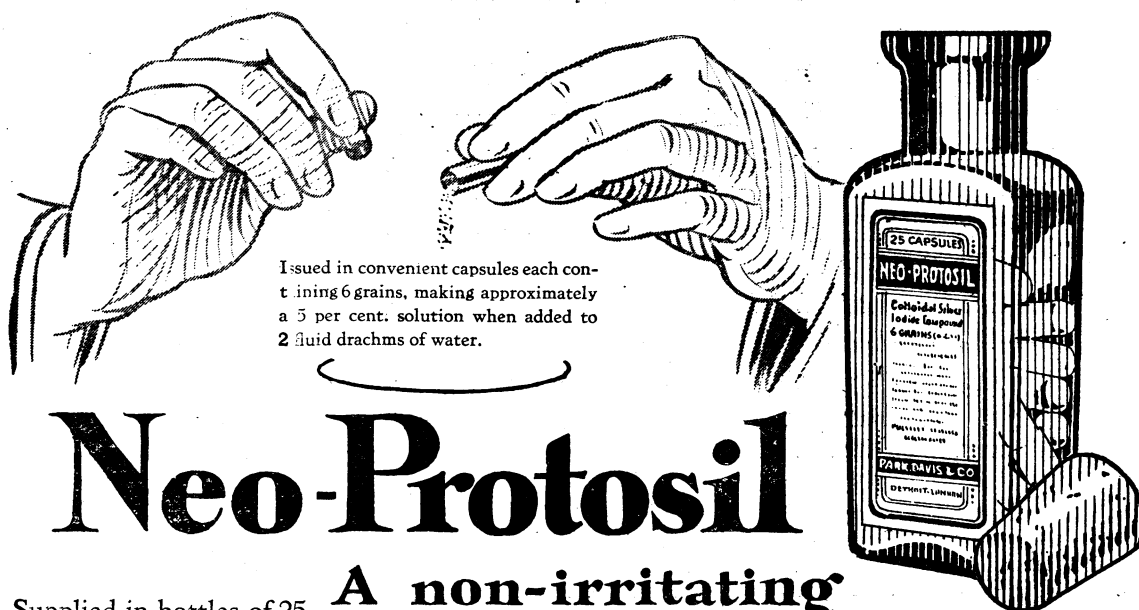
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