

THE Water Pollution Research Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has issued a summary of current literature relating to water supplies, sewage, trade waste waters, river pollution, and other related subjects. This summary has been placed in the Library of the Association, where it will be available for the use of members.

A SUBCOMMITTEE appointed by the Heart Committee of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association has been investigating the criteria of the diagnosis and classification of heart disease, and its report—which takes the form of a textbook—will shortly be published by Messrs. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., of New York. It comprises a uniform nomenclature and diagnostic criteria.

IN connexion with the sixth international congress for combating tuberculosis, to be held at Rome in September, arrangements have been made for visits from September 20th to the 24th to various tuberculosis and social hygiene institutions in Naples and the neighbouring towns. A descriptive book is being prepared for those attending the congress, who are also invited to the opening ceremony of two new pavilions for tuberculous patients in the Ospedale Provinciale Psichiatrico, Naples, and to other functions. For information about lodgings and the journey application should be made to the Compagnia Italiana Turisto (Cit), Piazza Trieste e Trento, 45, Naples.

A POST-GRADUATE course on cancer organized by Dr. Gunsett, director of the anti-cancer centre of Strasbourg, will be held at the Strasbourg faculty of medicine from October 16th to 31st, when lectures and demonstrations on cancer will be given in the various departments of the faculty. The fee is 300 francs. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Gunsett, Hôpital Civil, Strasbourg.

SIR C. J. MARTIN, director of the Lister Institute, has been appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries to be chairman of the departmental committee which will report on the reconstruction of the Royal Veterinary College with reference to the cost, the accommodation to be provided, the site of a new building, and arrangements to be made in respect of the Animal Pathology Research Institute now situated at the college. The other members of the committee are: Dr. O. Charnock Bradley, Sir Merrik Burrell, Mr. H. E. Dale, Sir Walter Fletcher, Mr. J. R. Jackson, Sir E. Cooper Perry, Major-General H. T. Sawyer, and Lieut.-Colonel Sir Archibald Weigall. The secretary of this committee is Mr. V. E. Wilkins of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the **JOURNAL**, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The **TELEPHONE NUMBERS** of the British Medical Association and the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** are **MUSEUM 9361, 9362, 9363, and 9364** (internal exchange, four lines).

The **TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES** are:

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediscra Westcent, London.*

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

MEDICAL TREATMENT IN CHINA.

DR. J. JONES (Bromley, Kent) writes in answer to Fleet Surgeon Home's inquiry in the *British Medical Journal* of August 4th (p. 228): Though I have been a medical missionary in China from 1905 to 1927 (excluding furloughs), and have served in four of China's provinces, I cannot recall any Chinese telling me of the system of retaining fees for patients, which are discontinued during periods of ill-health. Neither has my wife, who has lived in China longer than I, heard of that practice.

DR. MARGARET E. MCNEILL writes from Belfast: I can speak only for Manchuria, where I have been a medical missionary for twenty-seven and a half years. I agree with the Chinese informants that it is not true that patients pay retaining fees to their doctors, which are discontinued during illness. Chinese "doctors" often guarantee "cures" and extract money from patients in advance. The "cures" are not always satisfactory. I cannot speak with authority for other parts of China, but do not think it likely that there is much truth in the oft-repeated story.

MATERNITY WORK IN RUSSIA.

DR. F. EDGE (Birmingham) asks how he may obtain a copy or translation of the rules for maternity cases in Russia. He particularly desires information about any ante-natal work.

INCOME TAX.

Wife's Medical Earnings.

"S. D. T." is married and resides with her husband. Since November, 1926, she has had a plate up at their residence, "but so far there has been no financial return from patients." What should be deducted in her husband's return of their total joint income in respect of expenses?

* * * Apparently there has been no net cash income yet, but presumably fees are or will be due for professional services, so that on the basis of "bookings"—appropriate to a new practice—there would be no real "loss." What expenses can be deducted in arriving at the book profit, or the loss if there should be one, must depend so much on the precise facts that guidance is difficult. A clergyman is considered to be entitled to one-eighth of the general cost of rent, etc., for the use of his study for his clerical office, and perhaps some fraction between that and the one-half commonly applied to provincial practitioners might be reasonable.

Tax Payable after Retirement.

"E. E. M." contemplates retiring from the Colonial Service and inquires what tax will be payable by him on £900 pension plus £1,100 interest.

* * * The calculation is as follows:

Total income	...	...	...	...	£2,000
Deduct: Earned income allowance	...	...	...	£150	
Personal allowance (married)	...	...	...	£225	
Children (3)	...	...	...	£160	
					£535
					£1,465
of which £225 chargeable at 2/-, tax,	...	...	...	£22 10 0	
and the balance, £1,240 chargeable at 4/-	...	...	...	£48 0 0	
					£270 10 0

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

SUNSPOTS AND SUDDEN DEATH.

SOME months ago (April 16th, 1927, p. 750) we mentioned the hypothesis submitted to the Académie de Médecine by Dr. M. Faure, associating the appearance of the occurrence of acute crises in various chronic illnesses with the passage of spots over the solar meridian. Dr. Faure, whose address is: La Malou, Hérault, France, now invites any interested to communicate directly with him, with a view to the collection of clinical evidence. He undertakes also to notify in advance the transit of these sunspots.

ST. THOMAS'S DIRECTORY.

A NEW edition has been prepared of the *Alphabetical and Local List of Old Students of St. Thomas's Hospital*. The greater part of this directory is arranged in two sections, the first being an alphabetical list of names and the second a local list. Old St. Thomas's men will welcome this compilation, which is, we understand, largely due to the industry of Mr. Robert Hopkins.

BARLEY FOR INFANTS.

MESSRS. KEEN, ROBINSON AND CO., LTD., of Norwich, have revised the infant feeding directions and recipes on the container of their patent barley for infants and for making barley water and puddings, bringing up to date the feeding recipes and simplifying the process of preparing feeds.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VACCINATION.

Correction.

WE have been asked to correct two errors which appeared in the summary of the above report published in the *Journal* of August 11th. On page 267, line 21 from foot of the first column, "majority" should be "minority"; on page 268, line 10 from top of the first column, "revaccinations" should be "vaccinations."

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 35, 37, 40, 41, and 42 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 38 and 39.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 108.