amount reasonable for the private accommodation retained, and might perhaps point out to the inspector that some portion of the non-professional part of the house is used by the maid, who (presumably) devotes time to keeping the consulting room clean, attending to callers, etc., so that the two rooms downstairs are not the only ones affected.

Deed of Partnership.

"A. H. F." took a partner as from September, 1927. He has supplied the inspector of taxes with certified accounts for the practice, and his accountant has now been asked a question "which he can answer only from the deed of partnership." Can "A. H. F." successfully refuse to produce the deed for perusal by his accountant, and, presumably, the inspector of taxes.

*** It should, perhaps, be remembered that the amount of tax payable by the firm is usually affected by the basis of division of the total earnings, and where that basis is complicated, or where the existence of a legal partnership may be in doubt, it is, we understand, not uncommon for the deed to be produced as evidence. The inspector of taxes, however, has no legal right to demand its production. As "A. H. F." evidently feels strongly on the matter, he might inform his accountant that he is quite prepared to supply any information that may be relevant as to the terms of division of the firm's earnings, but regards the deed as a private matter between his partner and himself, and does not propose to produce it unless it is formally required by the Commissioners in process of appeal.

Replacement of Car.

"K. D." bought a car in 1923, price £355, and in 1927 bought another for £245, retaining the old car for family and holiday purposes. What can he claim?

*** We think that "K. D." can properly claim that his newer car has been replaced, and can treat as a professional expense of the year 1927—thereby affecting his income tax liability for 1928-29—£245 less the sale value of the old car as at the date it was last used for professional purposes. But we have known cases where the authorities have objected to make such an allowance until the old car has been actually sold and ceased to be available for professional purposes—for example, in the event of the newer car being out of order.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

TRAINING FOR THE D.P.H.

DR. T. N. KELYNACK (honorary secretary of the Royal Institute of Public Health) writes: The attention of my council has been drawn to a paragraph on page 416 in your Educational Number of September 1st, dealing with the training of candidates for the Diploma in Public Health in London. In this paragraph you state by inference that the Royal Institute of Public Health will cease its training in this respect in October, 1929. Will you allow me to say that there is no foundation for such a statement, but on the contrary it is the council's full intention to carry on the successful work which they have done in this direction for many years past. The council, having obtained statutory provisions for the registration of the Diploma in Public Health by the General Medical Council, the subsequent legislation by which medical officers of health were required to possess such a diploma, and the curriculum of study for such from the General Medical Council, by which uniformity in the value of the qualication was obtained, determined, in view of the inadequacy of the training in London for complying with the curriculum, to establish laboratories, both bacteriological and chemical, and provide the necessary training in other respects for such candidates. It is therefore most unlikely in any respect that they will abandon the useful and pioneer work which they have successfully undertaken for the past forty years.

A MODIFICATION OF THE LEISHMAN STAINING METHOD.

MAJOR J. C. CHUKERBUTI, I.M.S., writes: The following is not suggested as an improvement on the original Leishman technique but as a "field method" for places where pure distilled water free from CO_2 is difficult to obtain. I publish it by the permission of the Director of Medical Services, India.

(1) Select an inch of the most homogeneous portion of the blood film. (2) Draw a perpendicular boundary line on either side with a grease pencil, or, better, with a piece of ordinary candle, which is less expensive. (3) Pour as much freshly prepared Leishman stain as will cover the enclosed space and let it dry on the slide, preferably in the air or over a gentle distant flame. (4) Holding the slide with a pair of dressing forceps, dip it into methylated spirit kept in a wide-mouthed bottle always well corked and opened only at the time of use. Shake it well in the spirit until the film looks shining grayish pink. Too much decolorization will not entail restaining for malarial parasites, because, even if the white blood corpuscles have lost their nuclear staining the parasites retain some of their characteristics; too little decolorization may entail a residual deposit. (5) Wash in a jet of tap water. (6) Blot immediately, dry, and mount. If sediment is still present repeat (4), (5), and (6).

Perfectly clean homogeneously stained fields show malaria parasites in bold relief even in their earliest stage of evolution. The nuclei of the white blood corpuscles are stained deep violet, and the neutro, baso, and acidophilic granules are beautifully shown. Many hundred slides have been stained by this method since October, 1927, when I first tried it; I have not used distilled water since. I have further observed that methylated spirit used for decolorization does not lose its fuel capacity; it can be used for lighting primus stoves and burning in spirit lamps. More than two hundred 1 in. × 1/2 in. films can be effectively decolorized by dipping and shaking them in four ounces of methylated spirit until it loses its effective decolorizing potency, but retains its fuel property intact. The colour of the stained film will depend on the degree of purity of the methylated spirit, which should be of neutral reaction. The staining results are as follows: red blood cells—shades of greyish pink; nuclei—deep violet or shades of violet; acidophile granules—red; basophile granules—deep violet; neutrophile granules—lilac; blood platelets—violet; malarial parasites—shades of blue; chromatin—ruby red.

BLOOD FILM EXAMINATION IN GENERAL PRACTICE.

MR. A. J. FAIRLIE-CLARKE (Malvern) writes: A rough blood film, quickly made and examined, is often of value to the general practitioner in recognizing pneumonia, appendicitis, and other conditions, and may help him to diagnose doubtful cases, such as whooping-cough, or to differentiate bacillary and coccal infections. The following technique provides an efficient rough clinical method: A saturated solution, in tap water, is made of corrosive sublimate. The dry smears are soaked in this for ten minutes or longer and then well washed under the tap; this fixes the blood to the glass. A saltspoonful of commercial methylene blue is put in a 4 oz. bottle, which is filled up with water from the tap. This stain is filtered direct on to the slide, on which it remains for about ten minutes. (A porcelain developing dish makes a convenient sink and a small ointment pot is a suitable stand for the slide.) The slide is next quickly washed in tap water, till most of the colour has gone; it is then blotted and dried by waving in the air. For examination a dry 1/6 in. lens is used, with a small substage diaphragm; closing down the diaphragm is essential. Examining the slide in air simplifies technique, and allows eosinophils to be detected without counterstaining; these cells are clearly distinguishable by their mulberry contour and refractile granules, but are not so recognizable when the film is mounted in balsam. By this method the nuclei of the polymorphs show up well, and I believe that it is possible to make a reasonably accurate Arneth or polynuclear count, another very valuable aid to the general practitioner. Finally, the discarded slide is boiled for a minute or two in a small vessel containing a thick mixture of soap and water, rinsed in hot water, and dried ready to serve again. Two useful accessories are a spreader for the blood smear, made from a microscope slide, 1/16 in. being ground away (on a flat stone or emery wheel) at each corner of one end of this slide, at an angle of 45 degrees, and the truncated angles thus formed being ground to steep knife edges, while the other accessory is a microscope lamp, made by cutting a round window in a cylindrical tin and suspending a frosted electric bulb from the lid.

PYREXIA ASSOCIATED WITH B. PYOCYANEUS.

DR. R. F. VERE-HODGE (Woodford Green, Essex) writes: In view of the present prevalence of paratyphoid fever, I think it worth while to report the case of a young man, aged 21, taken ill on July 1st with headache and extreme lethargy. Three days later both symptoms persisted, the temperature ranged from 101° in the morning to 103° F. at night, and the pulse was slow. The fever continued for three weeks and then fell gradually, with diminishing evening rises; the pulse remained between 72 and 90, the chart resembling that of a typhoid infection. At the end of the first week the throat became painful, but thrush fungus alone was recovered by swabbing. Widal tests were negative on the twelfth and nineteenth days. At the end of the third week a good growth of *B. pyocyaneus* was recovered from the stools, in addition to *B. coli* and intestinal streptococci. I should be glad to have information about any similar conditions produced by this organism.

A REQUEST FOR BILBERRIES AND MULBERRIES.

DR. R. D. LAWRENCE (King's College Hospital, S.E.5) writes: May I, through your agency, ask the help of doctors or their patients in a small matter? We have been analysing the carbohydrate content of fruits and vegetables, and are unable to complete a few which are not obtainable in the London shops. We have failed to secure bilberries and mulberries, and any information which would enable us to obtain these would be very helpful. Of course, a gift of small amounts (say, 1/2 lb.) from a few sources would be still more gratefully received.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 35, 36, 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 *131*.