

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC URTICARIA.

"INQUIRER" asks: Could any reader suggest treatment for a man aged 28 who has urticaria, from which he is never entirely free, and at times suffers from acute attacks. No particular sensitizing agent has been found.

SALICIN ADMINISTRATION IN PREGNANCY.

"H. C." asks whether the large doses of salicin advocated in influenza by Mr. Turner and others can be quite safely used at any stage of pregnancy without risk of miscarriage or injury to the foetus.

HYPERTRICHOSIS.

"C. S." writes: One of my patients, a girl of 19, is much concerned because of a thick growth of hair on her arms and legs, and has consulted me about the possibility of removing this unsightly fur. I should be glad of advice.

* * * A dermatologist, to whom we have referred the question, replies: This is essentially a case for a depilatory. It can be made by the medical man himself by drying freshly precipitated barium sulphide, but in all probability it will be found more satisfactory to use one of the many proprietary preparations on the market. This is the legitimate field for their employment.

WANTED—A HOME.

"F.R.C.S." writes: I am anxious to get in touch with a doctor on the south coast of England who would be prepared to take into his home a girl of 10½ for the winter months. She has had serious osteomyelitis of the ilium, with infection of the hip-joint. She is herself the daughter of a doctor abroad. She will be able to get about to some extent, but will want a good deal of special care. Some provision for education, either in the home or within reach, is desirable; preferably with other children. But the most essential point is a good sunny, healthy site and plenty of open-air facilities.

CORNS.

DR. P. CLENNELL FENWICK (Christchurch, New Zealand), who is in charge of the radium and deep therapy department of North Canterbury Hospital, writes: With reference to the query of "H. A. A." on July 14th (p. 85), I suggest that he should try the effect of soft x rays on corns. We have treated a number of cases in this department with pleasing success. Our dosage is: kilovolts, 150; filter, 1 mm. of aluminium; distance, 50 cm.; time to give a Sabouraud pastille dose, 4½ minutes. The foot is shielded with thin lead, with a hole cut to expose the corn. We avoid raying any part except the actual corn, since we find the tissues of the foot react very quickly to x rays. We give one dose, repeated in ten days, and a third dose ten days after the second. We find that the patient loses the pain very quickly after the first dose; that after the second application the hard area is softened; and after the third dose there is distinct softening and lessening of the whole area. I think this treatment is well worth a trial, since, in my own case, I found relief from a very painful corn on the foot (caused by ill-fitting military boots), which had resisted all forms of treatment for some years.

INCOME TAX.

Replacement of Car.

"J. D. L." bought a car A in 1921 for £700 and car B in 1922 for £150, using both in his practice. In 1927 car C was bought for £400 and car B (value, say, £10) ceased to be used.

* * * The inspector of taxes regards C as replacing B; "J. D. L.'s" view is that C has replaced A and A has replaced B. Replacement consists of the purchase of one asset in place of another; normally the one discarded is sold, and it is not arguable that in such circumstances any other is involved. In this case the fact that car B is still retained (though not used) complicates the matter somewhat, but the same principle applies, and we are of opinion that the inspector's view is correct. The question is not one of replacement in the sense of one car being used instead of another, but of replacement as an asset of the practice.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

AN OVERDOSE OF MEDINAL.

"LOWLAND DOCTOR" sends the following note on the effects of an overdose of medinal: A tabetic patient (he writes), a woman aged 48, who suffers severely from gastric crises and lightning pains in the legs, has been undergoing treatment with bismuth preparations for the past year. She suffers also from menopausal symptoms associated with a systolic blood pressure of 165 mm. Hg. The pupils are always irregularly dilated. For the past year or so she had been accustomed to take one-half to three-quarters of a 7.5-grain tablet of medinal when the pain was very severe. On September 23rd she went to bed in the afternoon complaining of severe pain. Next morning I was called in, to find her comatose, with stertorous breathing. Paralysis was complete and there had been retention of urine for twenty-four hours. Her previous high blood pressure and irregular pupils made diagnosis difficult. Since the relations had no tally of the tablets taken, I treated her at first as a case of cerebral haemorrhage. As time passed I felt more confident that she was suffering from an overdose of medinal; at length, after vigorous stimulation and shaking, she opened her eyes—forty-eight hours from the time of taking the tablets. It was the fourth day before she was able to form a word or recognize her relations, although her hearing seemed acute. By the sixth day she was able to tell me, in a hesitating manner, that she had taken nine tablets, as the pain was so bad. Now, at the end of eleven days, she is mentally alert but physically very weak. The retention of urine lasted five days.

MEDICAL GOLF.

THE autumn meeting of the Medical Golfing Society was held at Princes Golf Club, Sandwich, on October 13th and 14th, by kind permission. The course was in excellent condition. Special thanks are due to Captain Baird, the secretary of the club. The results of the competitions were as follows:

Singles v. Bogeys (for Dr. Bathurst's prize).—1st, T. A. Torrance, 2 up; 2nd, N. C. Carver (after a tie at 2 up each).
Fourmes v. Bogeys (for Mr. Max Page's prize).—1st, N. C. Carver and G. Herbert (after a tie with T. A. Torrance and Sir Kenneth Goobart at 2 down each).
The Canny Ryall Cup.—1st, J. D. Gray, 76 (92-16); 2nd, A. Galletly, 77 (82-5); 3rd, J. W. Yorke-Davies, 78 (96-18).

MENTONE HOME OF REST.

WE are asked to direct attention once more to the fact that professional men of limited means who require a change are received into the Home of Rest at Mentone at a charge of 30s. a week for board and lodging. Special consideration may be given to the cases of those who cannot pay this amount. The stay of each person is limited to three months. The house is open from November 1st to May 1st; it is a philanthropic undertaking, designed to help professional men who break down temporarily, and is therefore useful to medical practitioners of small means, or their professional patients similarly situated. Further information may be obtained from the lady superintendent, or the honorary physicians, Dr. D. W. Samways and Dr. Stanley Rendall, at Mentone, Alpes Maritimes, France.

A CHOCOLATE BICENTENARY.

THE bicentenary number of *Fry's Works Magazine*, issued to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the entrance into business in this sphere of Joseph Fry, the founder of the well-known firm of Messrs. J. S. Fry and Sons, chocolate and cocoa manufacturers, contains an interesting account of the development of this huge concern, richly illustrated with photographs and sketches. As mentioned in the *Journal* of July 28th (p. 182), Joseph Fry was a medical practitioner; in addition to his association with the manufacture of chocolate, he was a partner in a china works and a soap-making business, the owner of a chemical works, and the originator of a type foundry. Lord Riddell writes in the *Magazine* on "The chocolate age"; Mr. Ernest Bevin, in an article on "The growth of trade unionism," pays a tribute to the working conditions and the satisfactory relations prevailing between employers and employed in the firm's establishments; and Mr. Charles Wells contributes an account of "Bristol in 1728."

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 44, 45, 48, 49, and 50 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 171.