

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.**

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

TRAUMA TO THE TESTICLE.

"FIRST AID" writes: Can anyone suggest a method of relief for a blow upon the scrotum, such as may occur on the football field? I have been told that turning the patient on to his elbows and knees and giving firm pressure with the hand or a pad to the scrotum and anal region has been useful. Later, probably cold water or ice applied would be best.

SENSATION OF ASPHYXIA DUE TO ETHYL CHLORIDE INHALATION.

"W. D." writes: I frequently give anaesthetics for big operations and dental cases with Clover's apparatus, first spraying into the bag ethyl chloride, and following on with ether in the usual way. I find that most patients object to the first part—namely, the ethyl chloride—saying that they feel suffocated. Can any reader give advice?

TREATMENT OF EMPHYSEMA.

"A. J." asks for information, based on personal experience, about the use of intramuscular injection of quinine and camphor dissolved in ethereal oils in the treatment of fairly long-standing emphysema.

SPA TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS.

DR. W. E. KINGDON (Leominster) asks for information concerning spa treatment for rheumatoid arthritis at Freiburg in Breisgau.

INCOME TAX.

Payment of Interest.

"A. T. B." bought a house in January, 1925, borrowing part of the purchase price from a bank. In June, 1927, he purchased another house, borrowing £1,850 from an insurance company. What is his position as regards payment of interest?

*** So far as the bank interest is concerned he is entitled to treat it as a deduction in arriving at his liability. If that has not been done, so that that interest has in law been paid out of his taxed income, he is entitled to a repayment or some equivalent set-off. On the other hand, the position with regard to the insurance company's interest is entirely different. In that case the company has allowed him to deduct the tax on payment of the interest. For instance, in April, 1929, instead of paying £26 Os. 4d., the gross amount of interest due, he paid that amount less the appropriate income tax, £5 4s. 1d., and the latter sum represents tax due to the Crown, but which at present is in his hands, to be paid over when due. The statement enclosed with "A. T. B.'s" letter sets out the total amount which will have become due in that way for the three years ending April 5th, 1930, and appears to be correct, except that it does not take into account the set-off for the bank interest, which will be due unless it has already been received in some other way.

Change in Nature of Work.

"R. L. B." held two hospital appointments during 1928-29, from which he received in all £130. During 1929-30 he is employed as an assistant in private practice at £350 a year. Can he claim to be assessed on the basis of the income of the previous year 1928-29?

*** No. The change in the nature of the work and terms of engagement are such as to require the income of 1929-30 to be treated as derived from a new appointment, and he is assessable for that year on the actual year's basis.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

RADIUM TECHNIQUE.

DR. L. A. ROWDEN (Leeds) writes: Dr. Douglas Webster, in speaking on radium therapy in the discussion by the Medical Society of London, as reported in the *British Medical Journal* of November 2nd (p. 807), pointed out the value of radium applied from a distance, and said "he believed he was the first worker in this country to use it in that way." Since as far back as 1908 it has been my custom to apply radium in certain cases 2½ in. to 3 in. from the skin the idea of a radium "bomb" is by no means new.

THE JAMAICA HEALTH CAMPAIGN.

"M. M." writes: Little notice has been taken in this country of the remarkable work achieved, and still in progress, in Jamaica by the Rockefeller Institute. This work began with a campaign against hookworm, the greatest general destroyer of health and energy in many tropical areas, and has of late gone on to the investigation of problems connected with malaria and tuberculosis. In Jamaica the leading figure in this struggle against disease has been Dr. B. E. Washburn, who, after more than ten years' successful fight against almost impossible conditions, is now in London taking a post-graduate course in tropical medicine. As a director of health education Dr. Washburn's chief merit, apart from the actual eradication of hookworm over large areas, has been his success in educating the coloured population in such a way as to begin the establishment of a sound sanitary conscience. To do so much meant the replacement of ancient and futile "bush-tea" superstitions by plain teaching and gentle ridicule. This has been done in his *Jamaica Health Stories and Plays*, published by the Jamaican Government, a volume which has attracted attention in many countries and has already been translated into Spanish for use in Central and South America. Whatever success has been attained by the able band of workers who labour under the aegis of the Rockefeller Institute, it seems no small reflection on our own colonial authorities that the task should have been left to America; but however that may be, we owe the greatest thanks to Dr. Washburn and his co-workers, and are happy to say as much while he is among us.

MEDICAL GOLF.

A WEEK-END meeting of the London Irish Medical Golfing Society was held recently at Sandwich, when more than sixty members were present. An auction sweep was held in connexion with the meeting, and proved to be a great success; 11 guineas were sent as a donation to Epsom College. The results of the competition were as follows:

The Canny Ryall Cup.—1st, E. T. Wright, 74 (77-3); 2nd, D. R. Wheeler, 76 (86-10); 3rd, J. A. Pringle, 82 (87-5); 4th, R. L. Rea, 82 (96-14); 5th, W. MacAuley, 83 (93-10); 6th, A. Perry, 83 (97-14); 7th, J. E. Ambrose, 83 (103-20). There were 63 entries, and 40 cards were returned.

The O'Malley Cup.—1st, E. T. McElligott (7) and C. Petit (20) tied, 1 up; 2nd, E. S. A. Crawford (20), all square; 3rd, F. Salter (9) and E. Ryan (14), both 1 down; 4th, A. G. Walsh (4), T. J. Kelleher (12), and W. K. Calwell (16), all 3 down. C. Petit won the cup on a replay. There were 59 entries, and 47 cards were returned.

The Lett Cup.—1st, D. S. Gordon and E. T. Wright (5), and E. S. A. Crawford and C. L. Wilson (34) tied, 3 down; 2nd, J. S. Gubbins and E. Ryan (32) 4 down; 3rd, J. Corcoran and C. Petit (38) 6 down. D. S. Gordon and E. T. Wright won the replay. There were 28 entries.

The Cahill Trophy.—1st, D. R. Wheeler, 158; 2nd, E. T. Wright, 159; 3rd, C. Petit, 160; 4th, E. T. McElligott, 164.

The Captain's Prize.—1st, E. T. Wright, 165; 2nd, A. G. Walsh and D. J. O'Keefe tied, 173.

Juniors (14 and over).—R. L. Rea.

Hidden Nine.—1st, D. R. Wheeler, 36; 2nd, R. J. Maybury and P. Coffey tied, 38.

Eclectic Competition.—W. Calwell and D. R. Wheeler tied.

The annual dinner of the society and the presentation of cups took place on November 14th at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street.

NIGHT ASSISTANCE FOR MOTORISTS.

MEDICAL members of the Automobile Association may be glad of a reminder that up-to-date information concerning flooded roads, or districts in which fog is prevalent, can be obtained from the twenty-four-hour emergency service maintained at the London A.A. headquarters, Fannum House, New Coventry Street, W.1 (Regent 8000).

A WARNING.

DR. JEAN DOLLAR (house-surgeon, Royal Eye Hospital, Southwark) writes: A man visited this hospital one evening lately and asked for the medical superintendent. He gave his name as Dr. W—, and refused to state his business, except to me. He told a rambling story, with considerable histrionic talent: he had been three years in Maidstone gaol, struck off the Register, trying to get a job as dispenser, etc., and finished with a request for monetary assistance. I have since ascertained that he attempted to extract cash from a former woman house-surgeon with the same story. I imagine he makes a circular tour of the smaller hospitals every six months.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 48, 49, 53, 54, 55, and 56 of our advertisements, and locumtenencies at pages 50, 51, and 52. advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 227.