

distress prevailing in South Wales, Durham, Northumberland, Staffordshire, and other necessitous areas, and stressed in particular the need for further financial help to enable boots and clothing to be provided for children. The deputation urged that further help was imperative and should be given through a public fund administered by public bodies. Distress should be the sole criterion for relief, and the areas to be assisted should not be fixed arbitrarily. The Minister said, in reply, that on the general question of relief to distressed areas there seemed to be some conflict of evidence. A full report had recently been obtained which appeared to show that the Lord Mayor's Fund was meeting the distress in the coalfields. The deputation had, however, suggested that that was not the case. Any further Government assistance was a matter upon which he would have to consult the Cabinet, and before he could submit any proposals he would require definite evidence that the Lord Mayor's Fund was not meeting the need. Dr. Phillips promised to submit further evidence, and pointed out that the need was not confined to areas in which the Lord Mayor's Fund operated, but was quite as great in some other necessitous districts. The Minister promised to give full consideration to that point.

At the annual meeting of the British Dental Hospital, held in the Battersea Town Hall on December 5th, the president, Sir Harry Baldwin, made a presentation to Mr. George Thomson, L.D.S., who founded this institution in 1911. It was announced that the hospital now comprises five chief treatment centres, eight maternity and child welfare clinics, eight tuberculosis clinics, one insurance society clinic, one full-time school clinic, one special clinic for children under the age of 5, and also a centre for treatment of minor ailments and disorders of the ear, nose, and throat. The staff numbers two medical practitioners, thirty-nine dental surgeons, and twelve anaesthetists.

The Joint Advisory Committee on River Pollution, which was appointed to "consider, and from time to time to report on, the position with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams, and on any legislative administration or other measures which appear to be desirable for reducing such pollution," met on December 12th and 13th at the Ministry of Health. The committee is at present addressing itself to the question of the access of trade and manufacturing waste liquids to the sewers of local authorities.

The issue of *Schweizerische medizinische Wochenschrift* for November 30th is devoted to the proceedings of the thirteenth annual meeting of the Swiss Society of Dermatology and Venereology, held at Geneva on June 29th and 30th, under the presidency of Professor C. Du Bois.

The Royal College of Physicians of London will be closed for the Christmas vacation from Tuesday, December 24th, to Monday, December 30th, both days inclusive.

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.

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The **TELEPHONE NUMBERS** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* are **MUSEUM 9861, 9862, 9863, and 9864** (internal exchange, four lines).

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

TRAIN SICKNESS.

"J. T. M." asks for advice in treating a healthy girl, aged 9 years, who has attacks of nausea, culminating in vomiting, when she travels in a train, bus, or tram.

DIET AFTER JEJUNOSTOMY.

"A. J. A." asks for advice as regards the feeding of a man, aged 59, on whom a jejunostomy has been performed. Eleven years ago he was treated for duodenal ulcer by a posterior gastro-enterostomy; a large gastro-jejunal ulcer subsequently developed at the site of anastomosis, and, owing to the condition of the patient, the only possible operation was a jejunostomy below the site of the old anastomosis. The patient is now being fed through the new stoma with peptonized milk, butter, glucose, soups, and eggs (not peptonized); his digestion is good. Can any surgeon with experience of similar cases recommend anything else as regards food?

CHRONIC URTICARIA.

Dr. H. S. BURNELL-JONES (London, N.W.) recommends "X. Y." (December 7th, p. 1093) to try autohaemotherapy for chronic urticaria of unknown causation. He writes: Withdraw 3 c.cm. of the patient's blood in a syringe and, without removing it from the syringe, inject it into the gluteal muscles. Gradually increase the volume of blood up to 10 c.cm., and give one injection every week.

Dr. L. A. FRANCIS (Uxbridge) writes: A lady patient of mine was a sufferer from urticaria for many months, and was treated by diet and stomachics, by bromides and other nerve sedatives, by an autogenous vaccine, and by innumerable external remedies. She saw many physicians. Nothing did her any good till she took collosol calcium one teaspoonful in water thrice a day. She improved at once, and has remained well for several weeks.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

COTARNINE HYDROCHLORIDE IN HAEMORRHAGE FROM THE PROSTATE.

Dr. J. R. LOGAN (Liverpool) writes: I think it is worth while to put on record the very distinct success which I have had in the treatment of prostatic haemorrhage by the administration of cotarnine. If I remember aright the prostate is regarded as the anatomical homologue of the uterus, and therefore it was that I resolved to try whether the remarkable effect which cotarnine has in causing uterine contraction might be paralleled if I used it in treating cases suffering from haemorrhage from the prostate. In the past five or six years I have had the opportunity of trying the treatment on quite a dozen occasions and, I am pleased to be able to say, with phenomenal success. The bleeding always stopped in a few days, seldom persisting as long as a week. I have no doubt there are disorders of the gland in which this drug can be of but little, if any, use, but in simple cases I believe it will be found advantageous in checking bleeding, and also in causing diminution in the size of the prostate. I have ordered cotarnine hydrochloride 3/4 grain as a tabloid thrice daily.

TUBERCULOSIS AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

Dr. G. GREGORY KAYNE (Denbigh, N. Wales) writes: It is hardly necessary to emphasize the benefits derived by the medical profession from the various Sections of the Royal Society of Medicine. Would it not be possible to organize a separate Section for tuberculosis? Tuberculosis takes an enormous toll in human death and illness, and well deserves special attention. Such a Section would bring together the men interested in the problem in its various aspects (for the disease still remains very much a problem), and perhaps prevent the periodical apathy into which the medical profession (as a whole) falls with regard to the disease. Moreover, the Society would attract many men who, occupied purely with tuberculosis, find it difficult to take an interest in a Society which hardly "caters" for them at present. It would be interesting to hear what other medical men specializing in tuberculosis think of this matter.

EXTRA-ARTICULAR FIXATION OF THE SACRO-ILIAC JOINT.

In the abstract of the article on this subject by W. M. Phelps and M. K. Lindsay (*Epitome*, December 7th, para. 509) it should have been mentioned that the procedure they employed was devised by Mr. P. Jenner Verrall, F.R.C.S., and published by him in the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* in July, 1926. Messrs. Phelps and Lindsay in their article made it quite clear that they had been using Mr. Verrall's method.

THE CANCER PROBLEM.

In the course of a letter Dr. A. W. CRAWFORD (Bolton) disagrees with the assertion of Dr. A. T. Brand on December 7th (p. 1094) that cancer has been demonstrated to be due to an extrinsic pathogenic micro-organism. He adds that the association of an organism with a lesion is no evidence of an etiological connexion, and that convincing proof of the microbic causation of spontaneous cancer is lacking.

PERCAIN.

With reference to the local anaesthetic percaïn, of which an account appeared on December 14th (p. 1114), we are now informed that it is not necessary to order supplies of it from the makers at Basle; it may be obtained from the Clayton Aniline Company, Ltd. (Pharmaceutical Department), 40, Southwark Street, London, S.E.1.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 43, 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 not filed in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 268.