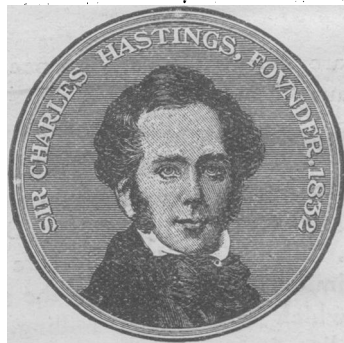


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## IDIOPATHIC HAEMORRHAGE IN THE NEWBORN.

DR. P. O. JOLLIE (Middlesbrough) writes: The following brief description of a case may interest your correspondents on this subject. On August 22nd I delivered a 9-para, aged 45, of a fine baby girl, who had a brisk haematemesis three hours after birth; this was repeated six times, at intervals of about twelve hours, associated with tarry motions, two of which contained fresh blood. The amount of blood lost, to use the words of one of your correspondents, was truly amazing, although I should hesitate to guess the amount. Nevertheless at no time did the child seem the worse for the haemorrhage and the exertion of the vomiting, except that it lost the "raw ham" colour peculiar to the newborn. No treatment was adopted beyond complete rest for twelve hours, and thereafter feeding with warm water flavoured with sugar. The child has had no further haemorrhage since August 25th, and is going on normally.

## TECHNIQUE OF INJECTING VARICOSE VEINS.

DR. JOHN McLAREN (Edinburgh) writes: Most of the writers in the recent correspondence on the technique of injecting varicose veins urge the importance of taking great care that the injection actually enters the vein, since otherwise sloughing may follow. One firm of chemists, on the other hand, in their directions how to conduct this treatment, give the advice that in certain circumstances injection round the vein is useful. Will someone with experience supply a definite decision on this point?

## INCOME TAX.

*Change in Employment.*

"M.O.H." was, until November 1st, 1929, acting as a whole-time deputy and chief assistant county M.O.H. and S.M.O. at a salary of £850 per annum. Since then he has held a part-time post, with permission to do other public work, but not general practice. His total net earnings for the two years to April 5th, 1931, will be £819 and £625 respectively, as compared with £802 net in previous years.

\* \* In our opinion "M. O. H." is clearly entitled to treat his employment as having ceased and been restarted as from November 1st, 1929, and therefore to have his earnings for 1929-30 and 1930-31 assessed on the amount of the actual year's earnings. The matter is governed by Section 45 of the Finance Act, 1927, and the cessation or commencement relates to "an office or employment." The inspector's contention that "the nature of the employment" is unaltered is irrelevant, as there has undoubtedly been a change in the "office." If, on reconsideration, the inspector is not prepared to give way, we suggest that "M.O.H." should write to the Secretary, Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

*Motor Car Expenses: Private Use.*

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us a protest against a recent suggestion made in these columns that "the only satisfactory basis of allocating car expenses is the mileage basis." He encloses a statement setting out in detail various points on which such a basis would work unfairly against the practitioner, such as the greater ratio of time which professional use involves, the greater consumption of petrol, greater wear and tear on electric starter, brake parts, gears, etc., and greater damage owing to weather. We admit that our suggestion should, perhaps, have been qualified; it would have been better to have said that "the only single basis of allocating car expenses is the mileage basis," but we were writing without reference to a practitioner who had such records of time, approximate number of gear changes, etc., as our present correspondent is apparently able to produce, and in the absence of such information it is difficult to get away from the mileage basis. Perhaps we may add that some of the factors would not always work out as our correspondent suggests. —for instance, a practitioner who uses his car to take his family out for a Sunday might find the time factor against him if it included the hours when the car was parked; private use often involves as short trips as professional use, and during holidays the car may travel over worse or more hilly roads than those where the practice is situated. On the whole the mileage basis seems the best starting point, having regard to the importance of effecting agreement with the authorities, if possible, but we agree that other factors may well be brought in—where their applicability can be proved—to modify the result of that allocation.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

## THE FOOT AND THE SHOE.

"M.B., D.P.H." writes: With reference to the letter from the general secretary of the Boot Trade Associations, Ltd., published in the *Journal* of August 2nd (p. 200), may I make some suggestions as regards women's shoes. My complaint is, first, that it is impossible to purchase a ready-made shoe with anything approaching a straight inner line—that is, which will not in some measure deflect the big toe towards the middle line of the foot—and, secondly, that one cannot buy a smart, dressy shoe for a wide foot. I see no difficulty in the way of producing shoes of smart appearance, with low or with high heels, giving at the same time the very desirable straight inner line and sufficient width for the toes of wider feet. Wide-fitting shoes are invariably made heavy-looking, and with heavy, ungraceful heels. Why not provide a neat wooden heel as in other styles? Lightness is essential to comfort. That the pointed toe is not

essential to smartness is shown by the fact that one of the most "dressy" styles of shoe at present on the market, that with a high Spanish heel, has a wide round toe. We may, I think, leave aside the question of the height of the heel as one which will be decided by the demand of the wearer rather than by the producer; but improvement in the customary shape of the fore part of women's shoes, the elimination of that shape which deflects the big toe, is urgent, and at the same time, I think, quite practicable. The wide, round toe is very neat, and is accepted by the dictates of fashion as compatible with a dressy effect. With more attention to the ideal of the straight inner line, and perhaps also to the necessity for sufficient length in the round-toed style, this shape should give all that can be desired in the matter of room for the toes, and should be developed as far as possible for all styles of shoes. The more or less pointed shoe, which deflects the big toe and is a prolific cause of unsightly deformity, should become a relic of the past. I write from the difficult experience of procuring shoes for wide-footed members of my own family who are not satisfied to wear "frumpy" shoes.

## PREGNANCY AND CERTIFICATION.

"T. G." writes: I am in complete agreement with "H. R." (September 20th, p. 504) that some definite rule should be laid down with regard to certifying pregnancy. I am also of the opinion that no housewife should be signed on while she carries on her household duties, but only when she is confined to bed or obliged to employ a paid substitute; this last matter can be verified by the health visitors. I have found in my practice that the patients have on several occasions been told by insurance agents that they can be "signed on" if they can get a certificate from the doctor, and, of course, the good news soon spreads among a certain class of patients. I have refused to sign on several patients, and have had to suffer indirectly for my efforts to secure economy.

## NURSES' FUND FOR NURSES.

THE committee of this fund, which was inaugurated by the *Nursing Times* in 1925, is in urgent need of financial support and other assistance in relieving the distress of poor, elderly, and disabled nurses and midwives. Some of these receive regular grants, chiefly to supplement their old age pensions, while others, with a bare subsistence, require help in sickness, especially during the winter months. At present the list prepared by the committee comprises over 400 names, and new applications are made every week. The poverty of aged nurses—some of whom continued to work until they were well past 70—is indicated by the fact that those who have 20s. a week are disqualified from receiving financial aid, except for special reasons. In its appeal the committee points out that if the nurses of all hospitals and institutions were to agree to deduct a penny from their monthly salaries the total amount would be sufficient to maintain its work. It has been calculated that a gift of £100 will provide 5s. a week for an old nurse for about eight years. Another object of the committee is to raise funds for the endowment of homes for retired nurses. So far accommodation has been found for twelve nurses at the Cow and Gate Home, South Side, Clapham Common, where most of the occupants are over 70 years of age. To enable this branch of its work to be carried on without anxiety, the committee estimates that an endowment fund of £2,500 is required. Besides financial support, help is requested in collecting subscriptions and in visiting and in writing to the lonely. With the exception of some clerical assistance, the services involved in distributing the fund, which include a thorough investigation into every case, are entirely voluntary. Donations and gifts of clothing, parcels, papers, etc., should be addressed to the honorary secretary of the fund, *Nursing Times*, St. Martin's Street, W.C.2.

## ALLOTMENTS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

DR. E. B. HAZLETON (Sheffield) writes: In order to counteract the evil consequences of unemployment—namely, wasted muscles, general want of tone and loss of self-respect—a scheme for allowing unemployed men to work on allotments has been started in Sheffield with splendid results. It has been found that when a steel worker or other manual labourer had been out of work for a year or two and then returned to work the wasted muscles were unequal to the task. This is a very serious matter, but there is another aspect of the case not often thought of—that is, such a man, in a case of national emergency, would be useless for war purposes. Allotment gardening gives the men a fresh interest in life and they become physically fit.

## MOTHERCRAFT.

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## VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 51, and 52 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 48, 49, and 50.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 151.

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Vide *British Medical Journal*, March 15, 1930, pp. 488-9, and 495-6, and April 5, 1930, pp. 669-70. *The Lancet*, March 15, 1930, pp. 573-4 and 587. *British Journal of Anaesthesia*, April & July, 1930. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine*, May, 1930, pp. 919-928. *British Journal of Urology*, June, 1930, pp. 129, 130 and 179.

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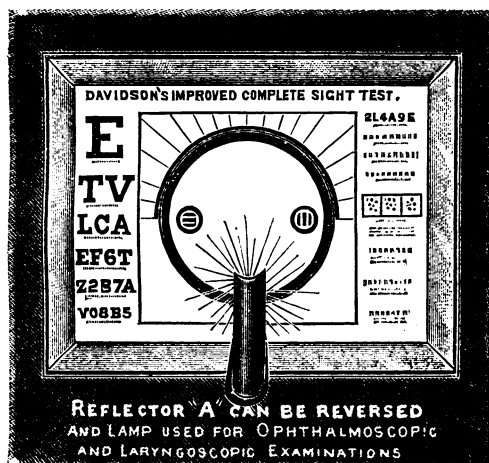
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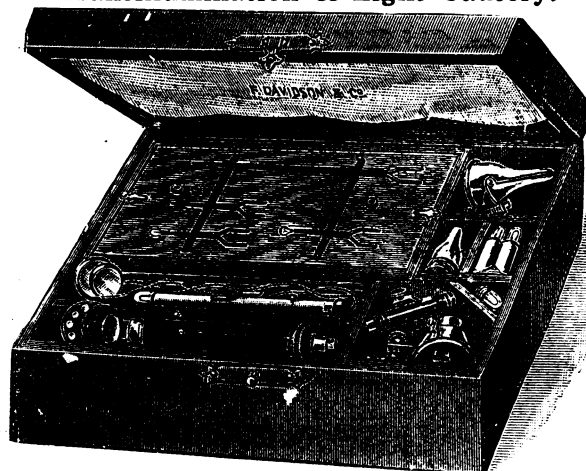


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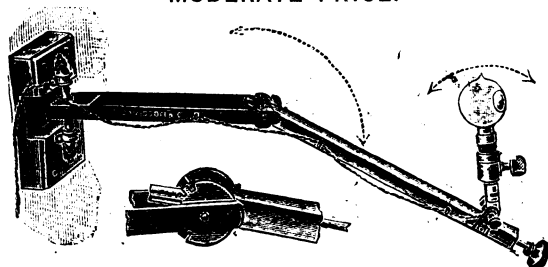
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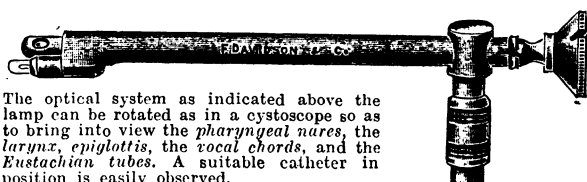
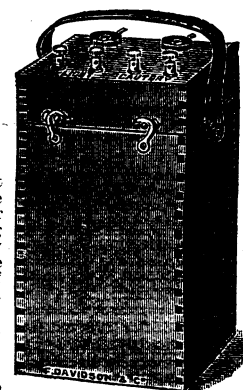
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