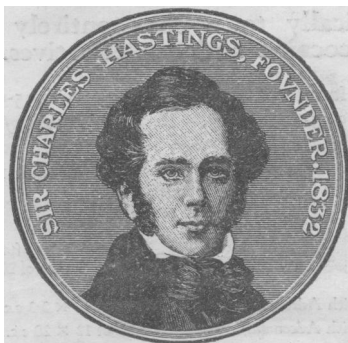


NOV 15 1930

The

# British Medical Journal

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



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No. 3643.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1930.

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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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## EPONYMY.

"J. G. B." asks what is the technical expression for naming a disease after the person who first describes it—for example, Bright's disease?

\* \* \* The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines "eponym" as "one who gives his name to a people, place, or institution. So 'eponymous.'" In the *New English Dictionary*, under examples of the use of the word "eponymy," we find—"The tendency of rude races to eponymy," and again, "after the fashion of eponymy so prevalent among Asiatic nomads." It appears, therefore, that the troublesome practice of calling symptoms and diseases after people's surnames should be described as "eponymy." A longer, but perhaps more exact, term would be "eponymous nomenclature."

## ALUMINIUM COOKING VESSELS.

"L. S." writes in reply to the query under this heading published on October 11th (p. 626): "W. S. M.'s" belief that sodium bicarbonate has a bad influence on aluminium utensils is correct. It should, however, be kept in mind that aluminium cooking utensils are invariably cleaned with soda or a material containing soda, such as soap, special cleaning powders, etc., and that that is at least as bad as the shocking habit of adding sodium bicarbonate in the process of cooking in aluminium utensils. On buying vessels made of aluminium the public is sometimes told not to have them cleaned with soda, but is invited to use a "special" soap. It seems obvious, however, that this, too, contains soda.

## INCOME TAX.

## Removal to other Premises.

"W. A. J." "removed from a smaller house into the house of a neighbouring practitioner, which had fallen vacant." His claim to deduct as a professional expense the cost (£40) of repairing and redecorating the professional part of the new premises has been refused.

\* \* \* A similar question was discussed in the case of the Granite Supply Association, Ltd., v. Kitton, and it was held that the expense of removing to more commodious premises is not deductible. The expenses in question seem to have arisen out of the removal, and therefore to fall within that ruling. Possibly the inspector of taxes may feel able to allow—the equitable grounds are strong—an amount equal to the cost of redecorating the professional portion of the old premises, after making a reasonable allowance for any further "life" in those decorations.

## Double Assessment.

"SCOTEX" has received a notice of assessment, showing him to be charged on £67 under Schedule E and £119 under Schedule D—in fact, his earnings have been £52 from practice and £67 as locumtenent.

\* \* \* It seems clear that an error has been made and that the £67 has been assessed twice—that is, as a separate amount and also as part of the £119 assessed under Schedule D. If "Scotex" writes to the inspector of taxes whose address is given on the notice no doubt the assessment will be amended. On the facts he is not yet liable to payment of tax.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

## PYLORIC CANCER: REMISSION OF SYMPTOMS.

DR. H. LAWRIE (Ramsbottom) writes: With further reference to the question of "Wicklow" (September 13th, p. 455), the following case may be of interest. An unmarried woman, now aged 70, consulted me early in 1924 about epigastric pain coming on one to two hours after meals and relieved by food; duodenal spasm and possibly ulcer were suspected. In the middle of March that year five or six nodules, the largest about the size of a large horse bean, were detected in the angle between the left clavicle and sterno-mastoid tendon. These were not painful, but hard and well anchored in the surrounding tissues, and were strongly suggestive of lymphatic gland infection by malignant disease elsewhere. The gastric symptoms pointed to the seat of the primary growth being near the pylorus. The patient's mother had died of cancer of the throat. I dissected out the largest of the nodules, which was reported to be a carcinomatous lymphatic gland, the position of the primary growth not being determinable. At six-weekly intervals she attended the Radium Institute for one year, and thereafter at less and less frequent intervals until a year ago; the nodules disappeared under treatment. In December, 1925, the gastric symptoms, which had meanwhile been more or less chronic, were somewhat exacerbated, and early in January, 1926, the patient developed a large cold abscess on the inner aspect of the right arm, just above the elbow-joint. After evacuation it healed quickly and the gastric symptoms diminished steadily, disappearing by the middle of the following month. In December, 1927, she had an attack of bronchitis, following influenza; again, in December, 1928, an attack of bronchitis; and in February and March, 1929, bronchitis, following influenza, since when she has enjoyed uninterrupted good health. On October 5th, 1930, she was in excellent health, and there was no trace of any nodule in the neck. No treatment

beyond radium and the ordinary measures to circumvent symptoms was adopted. In view of the transient notoriety of Coley's fluid in the treatment of cancer, and since the patient became rapidly well after the septicæmic abscess, I regret very much not having had cultures made from the pus.

## TENNIS ELBOW.

DR. RODERIC O'CONNOR (San Francisco) recalls Mr. W. H. Trethowan's letter on tennis elbow in the *Journal* of December 28th, 1929 (p. 1218), and describes a procedure which he adopted in his own case with prompt relief. He writes: "Inasmuch as the condition is the result of an overworking of the muscles involved in gripping, it seemed to me that a procedure calculated to lessen that strain was in order. Therefore I taped with adhesive the grip of my racket till it was so large that my fingertips failed to meet by more than a half-inch. The condition, which had been present eight or nine months, disappeared in less than two weeks, never to return, although I did not stop playing. In my own case the grip was evidently too small, calling for too tight a muscle action to prevent slipping."

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

A VOLUME of the *Proceedings* for 1929 of the Annual Conference of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness gives some account of the organizations and policies which various States in America have adopted to safeguard the eyesight of their citizens. Among the subjects discussed at the conference were educational propaganda by the distribution of literature and by the establishment of diagnostic and advisory clinics; eye-testing for the school and pre-school child; safety codes in industries harmful to vision; and the co-ordination of the work of the society with that of official and voluntary agencies. In the section of social hygiene the necessity for the early diagnosis of syphilis was frequently emphasized, and the subsequent discussion provoked some decided expressions of opinion in favour of compulsory attendance for adequate treatment. Other papers included addresses on ophthalmia neonatorum and on the etiology and prevalence of trachoma, which was stated to be a serious public health problem throughout the United States. In contributing to this discussion Dr. Ernst Fuchs referred briefly to the successful treatment of trachoma in England, and advocated the introduction of effective measures in several of the southern countries, such as Abyssinia, where, he said, perhaps a half or a third of the population was affected. His own paper on the subjective symptomatology of ocular disorders is printed elsewhere.

## MEMORIAL TO DR. JANET HOARE.

THE South Harrow Baptist Church has issued a public appeal for £240 to endow a bed at the "Rahmatpur" Women's Hospital, Palwal, India, as a memorial to Dr. Janet Hoare, who died at the hospital a few months ago at the onset of a promising missionary career. Dr. Hoare, who was 27, graduated M.B., B.S. in 1927, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in the same year. In 1929 she took the degree of M.D. at London University, being awarded a gold medal for gynaecology. Before proceeding to India at the beginning of this year she was house-surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital and at the General Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, and was associated with the Islington Medical Mission. The appeal contains many spontaneous tributes to her strength of character and generous disposition. Palwal is a small country town to the south of Delhi. In the absence of a Government medical service the Baptist Mission has provided treatment for the women of the town and district for nearly thirty years. Its work is now centred at the Rahmatpur Hospital, which has forty-two beds, and maternity and child welfare departments.

## TO MEDICAL BOOK BUYERS.

ANY medical practitioners who have recently bought books from an elderly book traveller (called Mr. Harris or Matthews) are asked to communicate with either Dr. Shulman, 57, Walsgrave Road, Coventry, or Dr. Hawley, Hazelbeech, Eaton Road, Coventry.

## CORRECTION.

MESSRS. BAILLIÈRE, TINDALL AND COX have asked us to point out that Dr. Ernest Nicole's book on psychopathology was erroneously described in their advertisement in the *Journal* of October 25th as "intended to fill the gap . . . between the textbooks of physiology and psychopathology." Physiology should have been *psychology*.

THE *Appointments Diary* for 1931, issued by the Dental Manufacturing Company, Ltd., Brock House, Great Portland Street, W., is a handy and well-produced desk companion, intended for dentists, but equally useful in medical consulting practice. The price is 6s. 6d., postage 6d. extra.

## VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 57, and 58 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 54, 55, and 56. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 203.

# What shall I prescribe?

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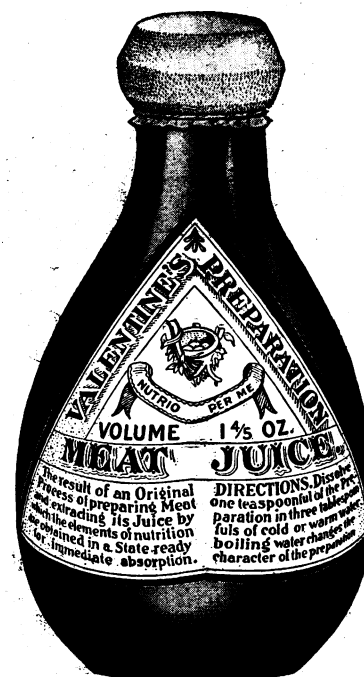
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