

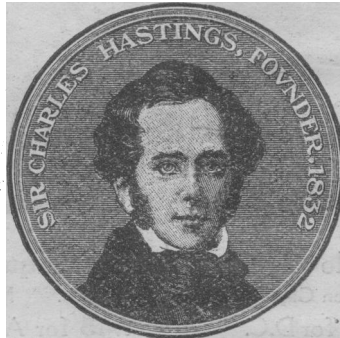
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British Medical Journal

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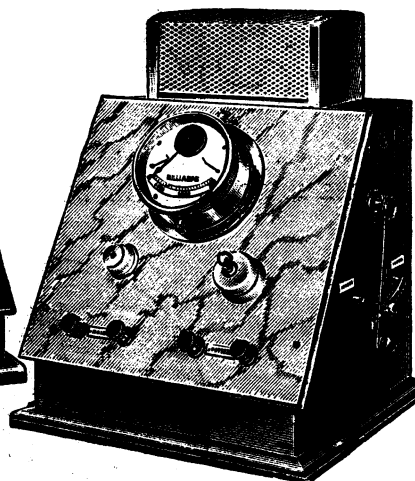
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The **TELEPHONE NUMBERS** of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* are **MUSEUM 9361, 9362, 9363, and 9364** (internal exchange, four lines).

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

Infra-red Rays.

DR. H. E. GIBSON (South Godstone) writes: I should be glad if some expert in physics would inform me whether infra-red rays penetrate ordinary glass, or are non-penetrating, like ultra-violet rays.

*** Ordinary glass—window glass—is fairly transparent to all the infra-red rays which we receive from the sun, after these have been filtered by the gases of the atmosphere. Such glass is however opaque to the much longer waves received from low temperature sources, such as a gas burner or domestic fire. The use of a magnifying glass as a "burning glass" when held in sunlight, and the action of a common glass fire screen, exemplify both effects.

Angioneurotic Oedema.

DR. P. G. SHEPPARD (Liverpool) writes: In reply to the inquiry of "H. C. B." in the *Journal* of November 8th (p. 806), I would suggest strict attention to diet and the employment of saline laxatives and antacids, with sodium benzonate in 5 to 20 grain doses three times a day. As a purgative the ordinary antacid magnesia may be given, and a gastro-intestinal antiseptic, such as salol. If these fail I would recommend a dose of salvarsan; thyroid extract in daily half-grain doses has proved useful.

Cyanosis with Collapse.

DR. L. R. LEMPRIÈRE (medical officer to Haileybury College) writes: Can any reader throw light on the following incident?

On October 28th a boy, aged 14, came into the school hospital about 12.30 p.m. complaining of feeling very faint and ill. In spite of his faintness he was not pale, but bluish; his pulse was small and quick (100). He was given some sp. ammon. aromat. and lay down; half an hour later he was no better, and was carried up to bed. Within another half-hour I went into the ward, and found him lying on his side with his head into the pillow, the face, neck, and hands having a deep blue-black colour. He was breathing very slowly and lightly, was cold but not clammy, and his pulse was almost imperceptible, but he was not unconscious, for he answered questions. He was immediately given an injection of pituitrin, to which his pulse soon responded, and a little later camphor and ether, with some brandy. Twenty minutes later he said he felt much better, but had a bad headache. The blue colour remained almost the same, and he was given frequent inhalations of oxygen. Between 2.30 and 6 p.m. he vomited half a dozen times, but his colour steadily improved, though he remained dusky-hued until the next day, by which time he seemed perfectly well. He was discharged fit on November 2nd, having had no further symptoms. He had been perfectly well until he began to feel faint while at a drawing lesson at noon. Between 10 a.m. and noon he had been at a science class, and had got some aniline dye on his lips and a drop in his mouth, but he had immediately washed his lips and mouth thoroughly. Also he had seen the school dentist, who had put a fibre dressing containing arsenic into a lateral incisor. This I removed about 3 p.m.; the dressing was a very small one in the root, and the dentist estimates the amount of arsenic as less than 1/32 grain of arsenious oxide. Could the signs and symptoms related be due to this small amount of arsenic? The boy was seen by another doctor between 4.30 and 5 p.m., when he was much better and out of

danger; he then looked like a case of patent foramen ovale. The heart was frequently examined, but was quite normal; there was no enlargement of either side, and no history of previous heart trouble or fainting.

Income Tax.

Income from Additional Appointments.

"J. M." is in general practice, and holds an appointment as sub-vaccinator. In April, 1930, he was appointed visiting medical officer to a children's home, and in October medical officer for an infant welfare centre. How should income from these sources for the year 1930-31 be assessed? Also, how are the periodical payments of vaccination bonus (1s. per case) usually dealt with for income tax purposes?

*** In strict law the income from such appointments is assessable separately under Schedule E, and on that basis the first year's earnings should be assessed on the basis of the amount for the actual financial year, and thereafter on the basis of the preceding year. Frequently, however, such income, where relatively small, is not, in fact, separately assessed, but is allowed to be included in the general receipts. Presumably that course, however, involves some small loss to the Revenue, seeing that, if the appointment be held for a number of years, one year's income therefrom would not be reflected in the practice statements. So far as the bonuses on vaccination work are concerned, the rule appears to be to regard them as receipts of the year in which the payments are made, and to bring them into the assessment figures accordingly on the previous year's basis.

Replacement of Car.

"G. O. C." bought a car in May, 1926, for £200—wear and tear allowance was never claimed on that car. In June, 1930, he sold the car for £70 and bought a new car for £410. On October 1st he left his former practice and started professional work elsewhere.

*** It is a pity that the wear and tear allowance was not claimed; as we have pointed out before it always pays to do so. As it is, "G. O. C." seems to have lost the chance of obtaining any relief for the loss on the old car, because he cannot treat that as an expense of carrying on his present practice. We can only advise him to claim depreciation on the new car for 1931-32 and future years. It would be possible for him to claim an adjustment of the tax assessed for the last period of the old practice and to charge the renewal cost to that account, but that would involve interference with the liabilities of his former partners, which "G. O. C." will presumably wish to avoid.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Congenital Absence of the Bile Duct.

DR. S. WAND (Birmingham), who contributed a note on a case of congenital absence of the bile duct, which was published in the *Journal* of July 6th, 1929 (p. 36), has now sent some further details. The patient has recently given birth to another child, a girl, who is at present alive and healthy. Dr. Wand writes:—The interesting points to me in this case are: apparently the "fault" lies with her second husband, the condition has only occurred in male children in the family, the absence of jaundice at birth, and the incidence of two cases in one family, the woman's three children by her first husband being all alive and well.

Radiologist and Radiographer.

"CAPE PROVINCE" writes: We require an accurate definition of the word "radiologist," at present used quite loosely in South Africa. For confirmation of this one has only to refer to the minutes of the recent Federal Council meeting at Durban. The first essential of a radiologist is a medical qualification. Those bodies in Great Britain which confer qualifications in radiology specify this, adding that the qualification must be an "approved" one. The term "radiographer" might properly be applied to a layman doing the work, though not expected to interpret results.

An Improvised Bed Desk.

"A. A. G. D." writes: A very handy appliance for reading in bed is an ironing board which stands on its own legs, with a board 1 yard long projecting. It only requires to have a board 15 in. by 24 in. screwed on to it, and can then be used as a sea table or writing table. A reading board can also be added to it. It stands firm, will not tip over, and can be painted any colour. The total cost is about 10s. 6d.

Vacancies.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 65, and 66 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 62, 63, and 64.

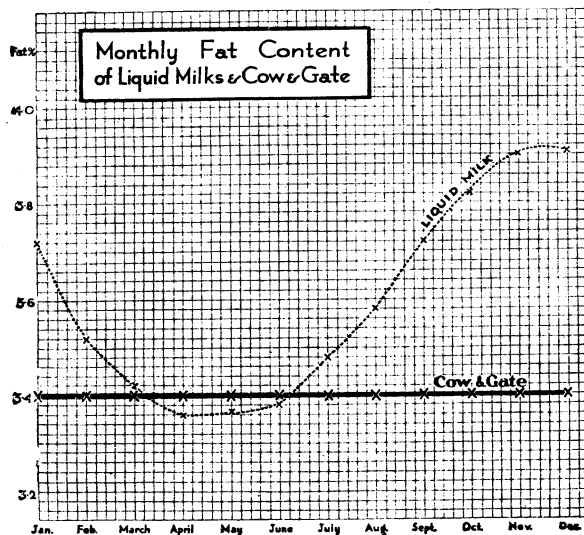
A short summary of vacant posts notification: the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at pages 3-5.

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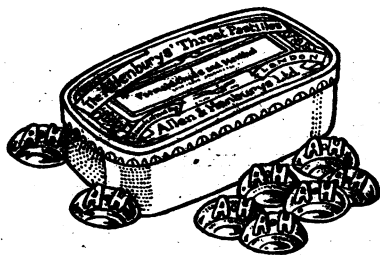
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