

**Development of the Ovum of *Ascaris lumbricoides***

Dr. H. WARBURTON LEWIS (Newbury, Berks) asks what is the time occupied by the development of the ovum of *Ascaris lumbricoides* to the adult worm stage.

\* \* The ovum of *Ascaris lumbricoides* when passed out in the faeces is in an undeveloped and non-infective condition. At 33° C., the optimum temperature for development, a larva develops in the egg in from nine to thirteen days. It is now infective for man, and may remain so for very considerable periods—certainly well over a year. Infection occurs by swallowing the egg, and the larva which hatches becomes mature in from two to two and a half months. Thus, the minimum time for the complete life-cycle (egg to egg) is about two and a half months. The worm is recognizable as an ascariid, of course, some time before it is mature and laying eggs—probably about a month after the egg has been swallowed.

**Income Tax****Replacement of Car**

"J. F." has in the past claimed and been allowed a deduction for replacement of his cars equal to the excess of the cost of the car displaced as at the date of disposal over the amount actually received for it. The last replacement has worked out as follows: cost of car similar to the one displaced, £310; actual amount received, £175; claim, £135. The car purchased, however, cost £206 only, and the inspector of taxes refuses to allow more than £206 - £175 = £31.

\* \* The inspector is right. The allowance normally is represented by the amount of the actual out-of-pocket expense, but when the cost of cars is increasing generally, or the new car is better than the old one, the cost of "replacement" is strictly less than the actual expenditure, because the latter includes an element of capital outlay which is not allowable for income tax purposes. As a result, the cost of replacement does not work out as fairly as the "percentage depreciation" allowance, and that is one reason why we have consistently advised practitioners to adopt the latter basis.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****Transmission of Ultra-violet Rays through Fabrics**

We have received the following communication from the Experimental Department of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Ltd.:

From time to time, during the last few years, statements have appeared in the press to the effect that artificial silk (rayon) fabrics are more permeable to ultra-violet rays than fabrics made from other textiles. A similar remark made at a recent important medical meeting has again called attention to this subject. The original authority for these statements is not clear, and it is obvious that any pronouncement coming from an interested section of the textile industry on the relative transmission of ultra-violet rays through fabrics should be cautiously accepted. So far as we are aware, the only authoritative information on this subject that has been issued by an impartial body of investigators is the report by Messrs. Coblenz, Stair and Schoffstall, which will be found on page 105, vol. i, 1928, of the United States Department of Commerce *Bureau of Standards Journal of Research*. This report not only records investigations in the relative transmission of ultra-violet rays through linen, cotton, viscose and acetate artificial silk, natural silk, and woollen fabrics, but also the influence of weave, dyeing, bleaching, and discoloration with age on the percentage transmission. To those keenly interested in the subject we advise reading the whole report, but the following excerpt, which is taken from the authors' summary of their work, is sufficiently definite to show that artificial silk cannot claim superiority over other textiles in transmitting ultra-violet rays:

"Fabrics of close-weave and open-weave (twill, satin, voile) material were examined. The results obtained on these different weaves are in agreement in showing that, comparing materials having the same weight, there is practically no difference in the amount of ultra-violet transmitted through bleached samples of cotton, linen, viscose rayon, and the rayon made by the cellulose acetate process. The fresh, white, natural silk is almost as transparent as bleached cotton, while wool is only about half as transparent to ultra-violet solar radiation as bleached cotton. In all cases when the fabric is dyed, or slightly yellowed with age, the ultra-violet transmission through the thread is greatly decreased. Hence, as is to be expected, in comparing various kinds of dyed fabrics, the one having the

largest openings between the threads transmits the most ultra-violet."

The important point to note from the above is that it is the structure of the fabric that matters, not the particular textile material of which it is made. The details in the report also show that the percentage transmission of ultra-violet rays through an acetate artificial silk fabric decreased from 20 to 2 as a direct result of colouring with a yellow dye.

**Holidays for Factory Girls**

We have received the following letter, signed on behalf of the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund by the Countess of Sandwich, Mrs. Creighton, J.P., Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Dr. Octavia Lewin, the Chief Rabbi, Mr. J. L. Stocks, and Mr. J. F. Green: At this time, when "all the world" (as we say) is making holiday, or preparing to do so, we hope that they will spare something for that considerable remainder which cannot afford a holiday, or not on a sufficient scale. In particular, we ask them to remember once more, as they have in former years, the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund. Last year this fund arranged 1,250 weeks of holiday for 1,030 women and girls at a cost, including travelling, of £1,630, of which sum more than one-third was contributed by the holiday-makers themselves. We would call special attention to this last point. Those who give to this fund have assurance, not merely that the money they give will be well spent, but also that it will encourage the wise spending of much other money, the hard-earned savings of the girls themselves; so that every pound they give will in effect provide a full week's holiday for a working woman. This is surely a good investment from a strictly financial point of view; and if anyone has other doubts, these can soon be settled by a visit to headquarters during the holiday season. The eager and excited crowds alone will tell him much, and a comparison between the group that is ready to go off and the group that has just come back will tell him the rest. Lastly, the subscriber may be assured that the fund is in the hands of careful and competent administrators, who make every effort to secure that girls are helped only so far as they cannot help themselves, and that they are encouraged throughout the year, by means of saving-cards and in other ways, to make the most of their ability to help themselves. Even in these difficult times we hope that support will be forthcoming generously and promptly for this work. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the honorary treasurer, Mrs. Slater, or by Miss Canney, 75, Lamb's Conduit Street, London, W.C.1.

**A Library of X-Ray Films**

MESSRS. MASSON ET CIE (120, Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris) have recently published a library of radiographical films, which consists of groups of x-ray photographs so reduced in size that a package containing thirty or forty can be carried in the pocket. The dimensions of the package are 9 inches by 2½ inches. In each of these packets are three, and sometimes four, light frames, resembling very much the old-fashioned lantern slide, and by simply placing the frames on a piece of white paper or holding them up to the light, a satisfactory illustration of the pathological condition can be obtained. The frames can also be used as lantern slides. Of the fifty groups, mention may be made of those of the ossification of the periosteum, the radio-diagnostic methods of gynaecology, fractures of the carpus. The cost of each group is 25 francs.

**A Warning**

A doctor informs us that a man calling himself Kelly and claiming to represent the Thistle Press (457, Liverpool Road, N.7) has been hawking specimens of labels for bottles and bottle wrappings in the Wembley district. Our correspondent made a payment to this man for goods that were not delivered; the Thistle Press states that he is neither one of its agents nor on its staff. Practitioners are warned to be on their guard if they receive similar visits.

**Corrigendum**

Owing to a clerical error the word "weeks" was substituted for the word "months" in the fourth line of Dr. Hanbury's letter in the *Journal* of August 22nd (p. 367). The line should read: "after suffering from a painful right heel for rather more than two months."

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 42 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 40 and 41.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 171.