

Glossitis

Dr. THOMAS JONES (Colwyn Bay) writes: The condition described by "T. S. S." is probably chronic streptococcal glossitis (see *Rose and Carless*, 1930, p. 915). Treatment is as follows: avoid acids, pungent drugs, potassium bromide, chlorides, and condiments, etc.; make good use of tongue by masticating food well, swill the mouth after each meal with glyc. thymol co., diluted with fairly warm water; also wash dentures thoroughly before replacing. Should tongue become dry suck glycerin pastilles (Allen and Hanburys).

Income Tax**Motor Accident Expenses**

"Exe" took over a practice in 1930, buying a second-hand car for £30. As a result of an accident he sold the car for £1, buying another for £95, and was compelled to pay further sums by way of damages and legal costs. Can he deduct these expenses?

** In calculating his profits for his first year, "Exe" can deduct the cost of replacing his car to the extent of £30 - £1 = £29, and, in our opinion, also the legal and other costs incurred as a result of the accident. (We assume that it occurred while the car was being used for professional purposes.) But the question of the damages and costs is not free from argument, and in the event of that claim being refused by the local official we advise "Exe" to place all the facts before the authorities at Somerset House and ask for sympathetic consideration.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**British Drugs**

Dr. W. BERTRAM WATSON (Harrogate) writes: The newspapers, led by the National Government, exhort us to "Buy British." May I suggest there is an additional duty on ourselves—where possible, to "Prescribe British."

Menorrhagia not due to Uterine Disease

Dr. N. PINES (London, E.) writes: May I add one remark to the valuable paper by Dr. James Young on menorrhagias not due to uterine disease, published in your issue of September 26th. Diabetes mellitus may be the cause of a sudden and alarming bleeding in a woman of post-climacteric age. I can cite one case, where a specialist thought of cancer of the body of the uterus, but further examination proved the womb to be quite healthy. A few weeks afterwards I discovered glycosuria, and put the patient on diet. Since then—more than five years ago—she has had no further haemorrhage.

Phimosis and Circumcision

Dr. IAN JEFFERISS (Totnes) writes: As one who believes that the prepuce, like the tonsil, does not require mutilation, I entirely disagree with everything Dr. Jessiman says (September 19th, p. 554), except that he does not favour stretching. When no scar tissue is present, all that is required—and I have pointed this out more than once in the columns of the *Journal*—is to pass a blunt probe between the foreskin and glans, sweep it round, draw back the skin, break down adhesions, remove smegma, and immediately draw it forward. Do this three or four times at intervals of a few days; show the mother or nurse how it is done; the glans acts as the stretching agent. Habits which are said to be due to the presence of a prepuce are as common in the female, yet we do not mutilate the corresponding organ. Circumcision is a relic of barbarism and religious fanaticism. Being covered with mucous membrane (like the vagina) the glans requires protection, and intelligent parents are coming to realize that a great deal of this unnecessary interference with helpless children is quite uncalled for. To say that there is no pain during and after the absurd mutilation of the organ is simply extraordinary.

"G. F." writes: Dr. Jessiman advises "circumcision in every male child . . . even if easy retraction of the prepuce is possible." Granted an intelligent mother, surely she can be taught to retract the prepuce gradually. Is there any evidence that a penis covered by a prepuce which is retracted and washed in the child's bath can cause balanitis, convulsions, etc.? Are the non-circumcising races of the earth more liable to convulsions and enuresis than Jews and Mohammedans? Of my three sons one was circumcised at birth and the others never.

None of them suffered from enuresis, nor did I as a child, but two of my grandchildren—both circumcised—have this troublesome habit. Dr. Jessiman does not even mention the great argument in favour of circumcision—namely, the lessened liability to contracting syphilis. Do monkeys learn "bad habits" owing to lack of circumcision? If the prepuce was only evolved as a protection to the glans, why should it have nerves of special sense? No; the prepuce is a part of the genital organs.

Maggots in Wounds

Dr. JANET M. C. GRAY (London, S.E.) writes: I was very much surprised to see in the *Journal* of September 19th the article on this subject. Since 1892 until the end of 1928 my work was chiefly hospital work in India, although not entirely; but it was only there that I saw wounds infested by maggots, and in every case I did my best to get rid of them. A girl Mohammedan, in a village fifty miles from a hospital, had extensive disease of her right tibia, swarming with them; the skin was all destroyed, and her foot was like a boat-full of foul fluid, and the fetor was intense. I amputated at the knee, and she made a very good recovery and went back well. I had several cases among out-patients, who had maggots in their noses and were frantic with the distress they caused; drachm doses of chloroform syringed up their noses cured them completely; once a woman fell to the ground and was unconscious for a few moments, but soon recovered. I, like all the surgeons I have met with, had a great abhorrence of fetid discharges, and carried on a constant fight against flies, mosquitos, bugs, fleas, and lice.

The Weak Heart?

Dr. GARRY SIMPSON (Lancaster Gate, W.) writes: I have recently come across another life made miserable, and the patient become a confirmed hypochondriac, by being told he had a weak heart; this is only one of many sad cases I have met with in the last forty years. The case in point was a miserable, weedy-looking man about 30 years of age, who came to consult me about some ear trouble. He told me that he had a weak heart, and I suggested that I should examine it; this I did, and found it as sound as a bell, and told him so. After two months he called again, and there was such a change I hardly recognized the man; he told me he had put on half a stone in weight, and was feeling a new man in every way. He confessed that his life had been made miserable for some years by what his doctor had told him. Unless there is some organic disease or other strong reason, I look upon it as next door to criminal to tell a patient he has a weak heart.

Winter Time and the A.A.

On and after Sunday, October 4th, when summer time ends, the Automobile Association's road patrols will be on duty from 9 a.m. until lighting-up time. Patrols with night service outfits will patrol the roads from lighting-up time until midnight. The emergency service which is maintained at the A.A. headquarters in London (telephone, Whitehall 1200) is available to members throughout the night from 6 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Medical Golf

The second autumn meeting of the Sussex Medical (B.M.A.) Golfing Society was held on the links of the Brighton and Hove Golf Club on Sunday, September 27th. Play was against bogey, and the captain's prize, presented by Dr. A. H. Morton Palmer, for singles, was won by Mr. H. G. Downer with 2 down; Drs. Craig and Garland tied for second place with 3 down. The sweep in the afternoon four-ball competition was won by Drs. Garland and Twiston-Davies with a score of 6 up; Drs. Bonnallie and Wright, and Butcher and Raymond, tied, with a score of 3 up, for second place. There was a very disappointing entry for this meeting, the attendance representing less than 2½ per cent. of the estimated number of golfing doctors in Sussex. It is hoped that the spring meeting, which is to be held at Cooden Beach, will be better patronized. The address of the honorary secretaries is 8, Second Avenue, Hove, whence particulars of membership may be obtained.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, and 55 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 199.