

"Cold Back"

"P. M." writes: Could any reader tell me anything of the etiology and treatment of "cold back"? This is, I believe, a fairly common complaint among women, and, although not incapacitating, certainly annoying. My patient is aged 28, stout and otherwise healthy, but complains bitterly of this coldness. Warm clothing does not, so she says, help in any way. The region affected is the lumbar area.

Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy

Dr. DOUGLAS ANDREW (Arlesey, Bedfordshire) writes: In reply to Dr. Lawson Steele's query concerning sickness and nausea during pregnancy, the cause of this condition is still not definitely known. The chief among several theories advanced in this connexion are: (1) increased irritability of the nervous system; (2) deficiency of the hormone secreted by the corpus luteum; (3) a mild degree of toxæmia. These points must be remembered when treatment is undertaken. I have found that great benefit usually results from the following regime. (1) During the first three months of pregnancy the patient is advised to adhere to a fruit diet as strictly as possible. In my opinion meat of all kinds and fatty foods should be absolutely avoided. (2) Regular exercise is necessary. (3) Bowels must be kept absolutely regular. I have found phenolphthalein in doses of 1 to 2 grains the most useful drug for this purpose during pregnancy. I usually prescribe a saline draught containing 5 to 10 grains of potassium bromide at night. If sickness still persists 3 minims of tincture of iodine in a tumblerful of water can be tried. The chloretone 5-grain capsules (Parke, Davis and Co.) are very useful in most cases.

Naevus

"V. S. M." writes: In reply to the letter of "Inquirer" about the treatment of a naevus, whilst I am in no way an expert in their treatment, I would like to answer his questions. (1) The prognosis is good if he is satisfied with a flat, white scar. (2) Radium appears to give the best result, though alcohol injections may be used. If, however, the injections are not successful the radium treatment is made more difficult. (3) The earlier the treatment the less will be the scar, as these naevi rapidly increase in size.

Income Tax**Temporary Residence in the United Kingdom**

"I.M.S." joined the Indian Medical Service on August 4th, 1931, from which date he has been receiving salary and allowances. He arrived in England from Australia just before taking up the appointment, and will be leaving this country for India about February 12th, 1932. Will he be liable for income tax?

* * If the salary, etc., are paid from British funds he is liable, however short his stay in the United Kingdom. If the source is Indian he would seem to be exempt, unless he spends six months in this country during the year ending April 5th, 1932. In calculating the period of six months temporary periods spent outside the United Kingdom can be ignored.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**Survival after Prostatectomy**

Mr. ANDREW FULLERTON (Professor of Surgery, Queen's University, Belfast) writes: I have just received an unsolicited letter from a clergyman upon whom I operated for enlarged prostate in October, 1911—that is to say, over twenty years ago. The patient states that he was born on November 21st, 1842, so that he is now in his ninetieth year. From my experience of these cases I am convinced that a patient who survives the operation is often rejuvenated, and may enjoy much better health than he has for years before.

Climatic Health Resorts of India

Dr. A. P. CAWADIAS (52, Wimpole Street, London, W.1) writes: May I make an appeal through the *Journal* to colleagues practising in India for some recent documents referring to the therapeutical action of the climatic health resorts of India. Professor Piery of Lyons has undertaken the publication of a big treatise of "medical climatology" with the object of collecting the more recent documents of the therapeutical effects of climatic health resorts all over the world. He has done me the honour to ask my collaboration, and in the part that has fallen to my lot are included the Indian climatic health resorts. As I have found very scanty information on this point in the literature, I should be much obliged for any more direct information from physicians who know these resorts personally.

A Surgical Link with the Past

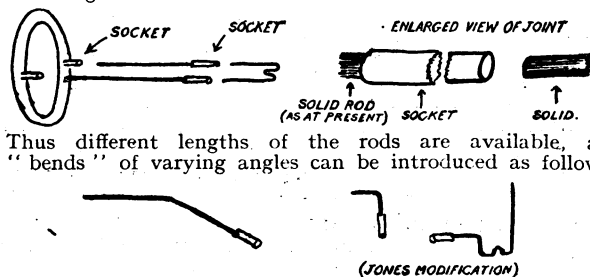
Mr. N. DUGGAN (Worcester) writes: To-day I was able to congratulate a patient on attaining her eightieth birthday. Fifty-five years ago, when she was 25, she was operated on by Sir Spencer Wells in a London nursing home for an ovarian cyst. This would appear to be one of the oldest living cases of laparotomy. She takes pleasure in describing how the great surgeon visited her during her convalescence, presenting her each day with a nosegay concealed in his top-hat. When the time came for her to leave the home she was so affected at parting from her benefactor that she cried a little, and was rewarded by an affectionate kiss. *Tempora mutantur!*

Domestic Refrigerators

VISCOUNT BURNHAM writes: Whilst we have made remarkable progress in connexion with national and domestic hygiene, it is still surprising that we do not insist upon provision being made in every new house that is built for the installation of a refrigerator. Nothing can be more important than the purity of our food, and yet in hundreds of thousands of homes food has more or less to take its chance with the bacteria which are always attacking it. The number of cases of illness traceable to impure food must be very considerable. Most, if not all of them, might be avoided by wise spending. Will not the Ministry of Health look into this matter?

The Thomas Splint

"WATERFOOT" writes: It has appeared to me that one great drawback to the Thomas splint is the large number of these which have to be kept in stock to ensure possessing one of proper size. I offer the suggestion, for what it is worth, that the iron parts should be made on the pin and socket principle, and thus be interchangeable, as shown in the following sketches:



Thus different lengths of the rods are available, and "bends" of varying angles can be introduced as follows:

And so on. The leather-covered ring parts need only be in, say, three sizes for the leg, and perhaps two for the arm.

Phimosis and Circumcision

Dr. J. M. MORRIS (M.O.H., Neath) writes: Beginning infant welfare work in 1915, one of the first things I noted was the large number of boys, at least 75 per cent., with adherent prepuce. For some time I freed a good many, a proceeding alleged by writers to be painless, a feature outside my experience. Eventually I got somewhat fed up with this, and thought that it would be well to see what had become of the tight prepuces of those unfortunates born before infant welfare began. I made a survey of all boys in my school area, some 1,900, and these were the facts. Excluding about thirty, who had had circumcision, for reasons unknown to me, but, judging by age groups, seemingly carried out in waves of enthusiasm, I found one very definite narrow preputial opening, for which circumcision or stretching would have been beneficial, and one doubtfully requiring treatment. In all other cases the foreskin was in a most lax condition; to retract was almost like pulling up one's trouser leg. This was found at the age of 5 just as much as at 14.

Sex-Equality

A correspondent, who had hitherto shared our belief that the prostate is an organ peculiar to the male sex, sends us an extract from the advertisement columns of the *News of the World* of November 22nd. The advertisement is headed boldly: "PROSTATITIS. 30% of Men and Women above Fifty Suffer Needlessly. They Live in Discomfort by Day and Their Rest is Disturbed at Night." Is prostatectomy to be included among gynaecological operations?

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 86, and 87 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 84 and 85.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 311.