

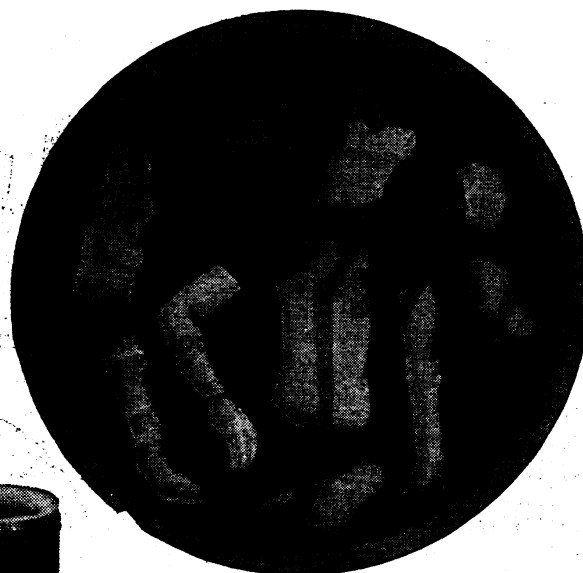
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Cleaner to handle and apply.  
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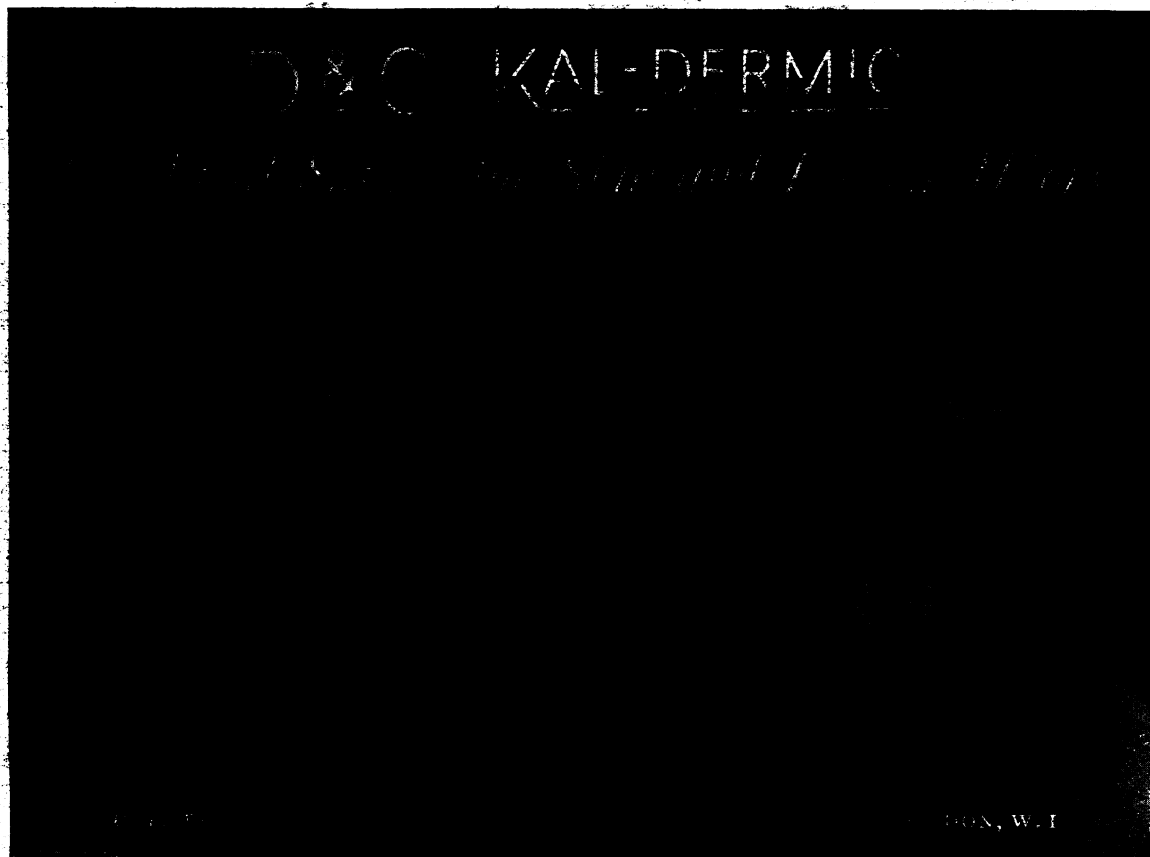
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## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Injection for Hydrocele

"H. C." wishes to know of an effective yet safe substance for the injection of hydrocele. Also, is there any record of sodium morrhuate having been used?

#### Public Baths at Coastal Resorts

Dr. BISHOP (M.O.H. Guernsey) would be glad of particulars of public baths, sea and fresh water, in any coastal health resort of approximately 30,000 to 50,000 inhabitants, preferably on the south or west coast of England.

#### Gnat Bites

Dr. M. E. ORMESBY (London, W.) writes in answer to the query by "J. A. S." about preventive measures and gnat bites: I suggest the following methods. (1) Powdering arms, hands, and legs (stockings proving no barrier to gnats), face, and neck with boric powder (a possible idiosyncrasy to boric powder should be remembered—boric acid rash); or (2) powdering with camphor powder (2 per cent. camphor in starch powder). I have found both effective and free from the unpleasantly strong scent of such things as oil of lavender, etc.

#### Cockroaches

Dr. W. SIRR SHELTON (London, W.) writes in reply to "W. A. M.'s" inquiry (July 23rd, p. 180): I can confidently recommend Zonol, Ltd., 59 and 60, Old Bailey, E.C.4, who cleared my garage of cockroaches after one treatment. We had swarms of them, and had tried several treatments before theirs without any success. It is now nine months and they have not returned. I should be interested if "W. A. M." would let me know results.

Dr. C. C. COURT (Ilminster) writes: If equal parts of borax and sugar, powdered, is sprinkled on the floor near the holes whence the beetles issue it will, I think, be found quite effective. The holes in the walls and floor should be carefully stopped with cement after the beetles are cleared.

#### Income Tax

##### House Repairs: Bank Charges

"H. C. S." explains that he has hitherto been allowed £5 to £6 a year for house repairs applicable to the professional part of the premises. This year about £25 has been spent on decorations; the greater part of the work did not include the actual surgery. Can he claim the one-half basis applied to the rent and similar expenses? Also, can he deduct "bank charges" paid under a hire instalment system in connexion with the purchase of a car?

\*\* The allowance for repairs must have regard to the portion of the house concerned, and something less than one-half of the £25 would be claimable. The "bank interest" is allowable if it is in fact paid to a bank doing usual banking business, but not if it is paid to some other person or company, but is called "bank interest" because it is calculated according to the bank rates.

#### Insurance Premiums

"E. L. M." has for the past four years deducted his premiums for sickness and accident insurance, always declaring it as such in his statement. This year the inspector of taxes points out that the deduction is not allowable, and states that he intends to cancel the allowances for earlier years by additional assessments.

\*\* It must be admitted that such premiums are not paid on a life risk and consequently should not have been claimed or allowed. "E. L. M." has, however, some ground for objecting to the revision of past years in that the inspector of taxes had the facts before him when he erroneously made the allowances and cannot now properly allege that there has been "discovery" of a material fact. "Discovery" is necessary to increase a gross assessment for previous years, and, *mutatis mutandis*, the same principle would seem to apply to the cancellation of incorrect allowances. This argument, however, is on technical grounds only, and might be difficult to carry on personal appeal to the Commissioners. If the additional assessments are valid they would be good for the previous six years.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Analgesia in Childbirth

As a result of the experiments conducted by Mr. Louis Carnac Rivett at Queen Charlotte's and the Middlesex Hospitals (reported in this *Journal* on June 25th, p. 1172) the National Birthday Trust Fund is desirous of assisting the carrying out, under medical supervision, of further tests of the analgesic capsules recommended by Mr. Rivett, by supplying them free for a period of three months to all hospitals with maternity wards and midwifery training districts. Should this method of alleviating pain in maternity cases be found satisfactory, it is hoped by the National Birthday Trust Fund to assist in making the capsules available for use in that large proportion of births in which continuous medical attention is out of the question, and for which consequently no adequate relief is possible at the present time. Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, chairman of the Central Midwives Board, Mr. Rivett, Mr. Herbert Charles, Dr. Enid Browne of the Medical Women's Federation, and Mr. Arnold Walker, obstetric surgeon to the City of London Maternity Hospital, have consented to form a committee to report upon the results of tests carried out by the hospitals. It is hoped that all hospitals with maternity wards and districts will be willing to assist in carrying out the tests by giving a full trial to the capsules, and will report their results to the committee. Capsules, and report forms approved by the medical committee, will be supplied free on application to the Secretary of the National Birthday Trust Fund, Empire House, 175, Piccadilly, W.1, from whom a reprint of the report of Mr. Rivett's paper, read before the Royal Society of Medicine on June 17th, can also be obtained.

#### Artificial Breast








Dr. A. WHYTE DAVIDSON (Christchurch, Hants) writes: To many of your readers who may have experienced difficulty in finding a really satisfactory pad for use in cases after complete excision of the breast, the following note may be of interest. Stuffed pads readily lose shape, and become soiled or lumpy, while inflatable bags are liable to accidental puncture, with disturbing effects on sensitive people. I have recently had made for me a pad of "sorbo" rubber, which is of very natural consistency, is non-perishable, washable, and which has no liability to sudden collapse if punctured. A very natural contour can be moulded in process of manufacture to comply accurately with a sketch, and the whole "sorbo" pad is fixed to an overlapping flange of thin composition rubber which can be stitched into an ordinary brassière, as required. The cost is only a few shillings, and the results in appearance, durability, and comfort are excellent. The pad was made by Sorbo Rubber Sponge Products, Ltd., Woking.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, and 35 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 32 and 33.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 88.

# DURING PREGNANCY

IN the preparation  
 for motherhood  be the patient  
 a young primigravida  or an ex-  
 perience multigravida  slim and  
 delicate  or generously built   
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*AGAROL Brand Compound is the original mineral oil and agar-agar emulsion with phenolphthalein. It softens the intestinal contents and gently stimulates peristalsis.*

"Regular bowel movements daily." That will prevent many a headache, feeling of lassitude, and perhaps hæmorrhoids in the later months. You can prescribe AGAROL safely, because it exerts no effect upon the uterus nor does it interfere with lactation. Besides it is easily taken because it is palatable without artificial flavouring.

*A supply gladly sent for trial.*

## AGAROL *for Constipation*

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*Prepared by WILLIAM R. WARNER & CO., INC., Manufacturing Pharmacists since 1856.*



## FATIGUE is not a DISEASE

An exhausted man is not a sick man and general low vitality can not be classified as a pathologic condition.

Patients with low vitality and lack of strength, however, need some treatment to restore their physical and mental depression just as much as a tired athlete needs rest.

The "tonic effect" to the organism and the increased energy-liberating metabolism may be accomplished by the administration of

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THE LIQUID ENDOCRINE TONIC

Bottles of 6 ounces

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