

starvation type—small, hard, and dark in colour. They become normal as soon as the food begins to pass through the relaxed pylorus. I have no recollection of constipation following the total daily dose of one minim of nepenthe. I admit that surgery is good treatment for such infants when a children's hospital is available and a surgeon skilled in that operation is on the staff; but to the doctor in a back area, with no such facilities, I commend nepenthe (1/6 minim) before each feed.

Eugenics and the Doctor

Dr. B. DUNLOP (London, S.W.) writes: Lord Horder refers to persons who suffer from gross mental and "physical" defects which are proved to be transmissible and then says that compulsory sterilization of such individuals is not advocated here, and that at present the operation of sterilization, even if desired by the patient and his responsible relatives, is probably an actionable offence in Great Britain. I fear that this will further extend the widely held idea that even a sane adult may not be given the operation except on therapeutic grounds. Great benefit would accrue to many thousands of very poor families, and to the future quality of the race, if one or other of the parents was able to get sterilized. I submit that a Government pronouncement should be obtained that adults—or, at all events, adults with two children—may legally have their request for the operation acceded to.

Herpes and Varicella

Dr. SYLVIA G. CHAPMAN writes from Wellington, N.Z.: In view of recent reports in your columns regarding the coincidence of varicella and herpes in the same patient, the following case may be of interest to readers. A woman of 65 had an attack of neuritis in the region supplied by the second and third lumbar nerves on the right side. The pain was severe and kept her from sleeping at night. It was treated by rest, warmth, diet, mild sedatives, and, later, diathermy. No cutaneous eruption appeared. A week after the onset the patient had an attack of subacute glaucoma, which was treated in hospital by iridectomy. Both conditions did well, and a fortnight after the operation she was able to attend to her usual occupations. She remained in good health for two weeks; she then sent for me saying that she had again had severe pain for two days, this time in the right buttock and posterior aspect of the right thigh. On examination the areas supplied by the second, third, and fourth sacral nerves were found to be the site of an intense herpetic eruption. Next day my attention was called to a spot on the anterior aspect of the opposite thigh. It was a vesicle surrounded by a reddened zone, having the appearance characteristic of a varicella vesicle. Thereafter four other vesicles appeared, one on the right thigh, one on the left flank, and two on the neck. Their eruption, desiccation, and final disappearance were typical of varicella. The temperature did not rise above 99°. The attack of herpes followed the normal course, the disappearance of the eruption being succeeded by considerable neuralgic pain in the affected region and in the foot of the same side. No history of actual contact with a case of either varicella or herpes could be obtained, but during the interval between the two illnesses the patient had travelled a great deal in trams, and had attended meetings at a kindergarten school, so that numerous opportunities for infection may have occurred. The patient had had a very mild attack of varicella at the age of 5.

Recovery Wards

Mr. GEORGE WATTS (secretary-superintendent, North Ormesby Hospital, Middlesbrough) writes: A year ago, when we opened our new operation theatre suite, we provided in convenient proximity to the theatres two recovery wards of six beds each and two single-bed wards. All patients are transferred direct to these wards after operation. The medical and surgical staff of the hospital have nothing but praise for this innovation, which is of considerable benefit to the patient who has just been operated upon. It has made for peace and quietness in the general wards of the hospital, as the patients in these wards are not disturbed by the many noises incidental to the return of the patient to the ward after having undergone an operation.

Milk and Tuberculosis

Dr. G. WALKER (Dundee) writes: Dr. W. T. Munro, Glenlomond Sanatorium, has advised me that my last letter on this question (*Journal*, November 11th) is open to criticism, in that there is a definite morbidity and mortality from tuberculosis due to bovine bacilli which would disappear with the establishment of a milk supply free from viable T.B. In my anxiety to stress the error of attributing the spread of tuberculosis chiefly to milk I

wrote that I doubted whether a clean milk supply would influence the morbidity rate of tuberculosis. The choice of the term "morbidity rate" was unfortunate, as I had intended to indicate that the incidence of *infection* in the community, bearing in mind the ubiquitous human type bacillus, would show no diminution. Our own isolations of virulent bovine bacilli from sputum, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, etc., give ample evidence of the virulence of that organism for the human subject.

Tetanus and Toy Pistols

Mr. J. EWART SCHOFIELD (London, W.1) writes: I was interested to read in your issue of November 25th, apropos of the new Firearms and Imitation Firearms Act, of the danger of tetanus from toy pistol wounds. This prompts me to record that I attended the coroner's court in Sheffield concerning the death of two boys who had died from tetanus following wounds of the hands due to injury from toy pistols. These cases occurred in 1926, so that it is impossible to give further details. The coincidence was noted at the time and remarked upon by the coroner.

Driving In Fog

Dr. E. B. HAZLETON (Sheffield) writes: Infra-red photography has taught us certain facts which may be useful to motorists. Briefly put, it is found that by using an infra-red filter a negative may be taken which will show clearly objects which to the naked eye are merely blurred or indistinguishable. A very interesting photograph illustrating this will be found in Rawling's little book (Blackie and Sons), showing varicose veins beneath the surface of the skin. By using a modified infra-red filter objects may be seen more clearly when driving through fog and mist. An increasing number of motorists are now using the following method of driving at night: The near-side head-lamp is fitted with a clear amber filter, and is permanently focused on the left-hand kerb at twenty-five to thirty yards. This shows up all pedestrians and cyclists. A spotlight is fitted low down and focused on the kerb at five yards distance. The off-side head-light is not used except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. It is found by direct experiment that the best light filter for the spotlight is orange—not red.

Diaries

We have received from the firm of John Walker and Co., Ltd., Warwick Lane, E.C.4, a large assortment of diaries, appointment books, calendars, and date-pads for the coming year, in various sizes and styles of binding, at prices ranging from 1s. 3d. upwards.

Bale's Dental Surgeon's Daily Diary and Appointment Book for 1934 (John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd.) is arranged on a practical plan, and should prove serviceable to other professional men whose working day is divided into half-hour sections. The price is 6s. or 7s. 6d. The "*Datada*" *Diary* (No. 280) for 1934 (price, 6s., post quarto), issued by T. J. and J. Smith, Ltd., 26, Charterhouse Square, E.C., contains one page to each day, divided into quarter-hours for appointments.

Disclaimer

Lieut.-Col. P. JANVRIN MARETT (Jersey) writes: In *Reynolds's Illustrated News* of November 26th, 1933, there appears an interview with a "Professor" O. A. Newell, in which he says that "he made investigations in conjunction with Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. Marett, Medical Officer of Health for the Island" (Jersey). I should be grateful if you would publish this complete denial in your next issue. I do not know "Professor" O. A. Newell, and have never made any investigations in conjunction with him, nor have I ever corresponded with him. The statement objected to was brought to my notice in a letter sent to me requesting to be informed as to where a supply of this "cure" could be obtained. Had it not been for this letter I should have known nothing about the article in the paper, and I am unaware as to whether my name has not been made use of on previous occasions. I have called upon the editor of the newspaper in question to correct the false statement referred to and to apologize therefor.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 312.