

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Excessive Weight in Childhood

"A B C" writes: A girl, 11 years old, weighs 11 st., and is 4 ft. 11 in. in height. Do cases like this tend to lose excessive weight at puberty? She is active in mind and body. I should be glad of any suggestions for treatment from your readers.

#### Nail-biting

"M.B.ED." asks for suggestions in the treatment of nail-biting in an intelligent girl of 11, the daughter of highly educated and sensible parents. The girl is otherwise quite normal, and is apparently fit in every way, but is a little highly strung temperamentally.

#### Over-smoking

"F. C. R." (Sussex) would be glad to know of any way of stopping excessive cigarette smoking in a man of 34. The man has been a heavy smoker all his life, and has repeatedly tried to cut it down both for reasons of economy as well as for the symptoms produced.

#### Insect Bite Causing Gangrene of Finger

Dr. EDWARD C. B. IBOTSON (Jersey) sends the following additional note (see *Journal*, June 23rd, p. 1152): Dry gangrene on the back of the terminal phalanx spread down to the bone, and I had to amputate the phalanx on July 17th. Whatever the insect was, the patient states it to have been very small and hard to remove, but that the bite caused much pain. He applied tincture of iodine only. The bite was on June 10th. A groove of dry, black gangrene was present when he came first on June 13th.

#### Book Wanted and Found

Within a few hours of the publication of our last issue, with its request from "W. G. R." for Sutherland's *Dispensing Made Easy*, we received by hand a copy from a reader in London. Since then medical men living as widely apart as Staines, Alloa, Liss, Royston, Folkestone, Brockenhurst, and Hawick have written to say that they can let our correspondent have copies of the book.

#### Income Tax

##### Depreciation of Sun-ray Apparatus

"T. D. R." has claimed an allowance of 20 per cent. of the cost (£65) of a sun-ray apparatus, but the inspector of taxes will agree to 5 per cent. only.

\*\* So far as our knowledge goes 10 per cent. is the usual rate allowed. Electrical appliances are undoubtedly subject to heavy depreciation, and 5 per cent. is definitely inadequate.

#### Request for Audit of Accounts

"E. R." is a partner in a firm whose annual accounts are prepared on a model furnished by a London firm of accountants, and have hitherto been accepted for income tax purposes without question. A request has now been made for the accounts to be audited.

\*\* It is, of course, fairly common for a firm's accounts to be prepared annually by a qualified accountant, but it is most unusual for a request of the sort mentioned to be made where there are no special circumstances. Professional accounts are so much simpler to keep and to summarize than business accounts that the usual possibilities for error are comparatively small. We suggest that "E. R." should see his local inspector of taxes, point out to him the unusual nature of the request, and ask for what reason the certificate of the partner who prepares the account is considered inadequate.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Epsom College Founder's Day

Favoured by fine weather, and attended by over 1,500 guests, Founder's Day was celebrated at Epsom College on Saturday last, July 28th, when the new president, Lord Leverhulme, presented the prizes. Proceedings opened at 11 o'clock with the second day of the Past and Present cricket match, which (for the first time for over ten years) was won easily by the Old Boys, who had no fewer than seven former school captains in their side. Service was held in chapel at noon. After lunch spectators were treated to a well-varied and effective open-air assault-at-arms, and this was followed by the prize-giving in Big School. The head master, in his speech of welcome to Lord Leverhulme, referred to a satisfactory year's progress, which had been rounded off by a striking improvement in examination results. He enumerated the additions made to the school buildings during the year, and announced that the council had decided to put up a block of new class rooms, ablution rooms, and changing rooms on the site of the present old chemistry block. If the school could shortly get some squash courts, there should then be no need for further building for many years. The head master also announced that a representative of the Ministry of Health had spent a week of the summer term at Epsom College investigating the diet and muscular reactions of the boys, and he felt sure the data, when collated, would be interesting and of good purpose both to the Ministry and to the school. Lord Leverhulme, after presenting the prizes, in the course of an interesting and witty speech emphasized the necessity of encouraging a boy to follow his bent. In the evening the school choral and orchestral societies gave a performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

#### High Therapeutics

Mr. J. D. P. GRAHAM (Glasgow) writes: Those practitioners who pride themselves on keeping up to date in their therapeutic methods may care to add the following procedure to their technique. A lady infant health visitor in the city here was concerned to learn that a certain child among her charges was suffering from bronchitis. She therefore made haste to pay a visit and inquire after the invalid. The weather was extremely hot. The mother seemed unduly reluctant to allow of the visitor's looking at the youngster, but finally her excuses were overcome, when the lady approached and was shocked to discover a ghastly smell as of putrefaction coming from the region of the child. Further investigation revealed a large piece of fat applied to the unfortunate child's chest. Unashamedly the mother explained that a piece of chicken fat tied on the "affected part" was a sovereign specific for all coughs, though in hot weather it had its disadvantages.

#### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, and 43 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 112.