

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Removal of Tattoo Marks

Dr. GEORGE STEANE (Erdington) writes: Is it possible to remove or obliterate tattoo marks?

Spontaneous Rupture of Extensor Tendons

Dr. GEORGE STEANE (Erdington) writes: Are there any cases on record of spontaneous rupture of the extensor tendons of the wrist and fingers?

Removal of Urine Stains from Clothing

"M.B." (Bath) is anxious to have the name of a chemical preparation which will remove urine stains from clothing, for use in a patient who suffers from incontinence. He would be glad if any reader could assist him.

Local Anaesthetic for Nasal Work

Colonel G. F. ROWCROFT (Coonoor, S. India) writes: With all the innumerable anaesthetics now being introduced, has nothing yet been discovered that will take the place of cocaine as a local anaesthetic for the mucous membrane of the nose by surface application, not injection? One occasionally comes across a patient who has a violent idiosyncrasy to cocaine, and nothing as an alternative appears to be available except a general anaesthetic, or some form of injection, often both undesirable, as, for example, such a simple procedure as passing a Eustachian catheter. One that would give analgesia sufficiently prolonged for a sub-mucous resection would be ideal. Any enlightenment on this point will be thankfully received.

Head and Foot Presentation

Dr. ALASTAIR C. THOMSON (Kirkton-in-Lindsey, Lincs) writes: On July 27th I was called by a district nurse to a woman in labour. She was a multipara, and had been losing liquor amnii for four days. The confinement had not been expected until mid-September. On pelvic examination I found a head presenting with, to one side of it, ten "digits," the whole being tightly wedged in the cervical canal. Under deep anaesthesia I was able to push back the head, when I found the "digits" to be toes in a very oedematous state. I performed a combined internal and external version, and delivered a 5½-lb. male child (in the breech manner). Artificial respiration was required for a little time, but the child did very well later, and continues to thrive. The mother made an uninterrupted recovery. The child's legs at birth were easily put into the position of genu recurvatum—obviously due to its position *in utero*—but these now look almost normal. My textbook of obstetrics does not make any reference to this "feet and head" presentation, and I am wondering if any of your readers can tell me if this is a particularly unusual occurrence.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Holidays for Factory Girls

We have received the following letter signed on behalf of the Factory Girls' Holiday Fund by the Countess of Sandwich, Mrs. Louisa Creighton, the Very Rev. Dr. Hertz, Lady Margaret Loch, Sir Thomas Barlow, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite:

May we appeal to your kind readers for help for the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund, which is in urgent need of financial assistance. It may be questioned whether any of us ever outgrow a certain quickening of the pulse at the word "holiday"; it is a fact that the idea yearly increases its hold on our sense of what is due to us. Doctors recommend a holiday, kind friends urge it as a panacea for all the evil effects of overwork and fatigue; it is part of the routine of all our lives—but not, alas! of the lives that probably need it most. The girl who works all day in factory or shop, the woman who looks after her home and also cleans offices in the late evening and very early morning, have little money to pay for what to us is a necessity, but to them an unattainable luxury. When what they earn is wanted for family, rent, food, and clothing, in these days of unemployed men and boys, how can one individual, herself often the breadwinner who holds the house together, set aside even a few pence a week so as to go away and amuse herself alone? We deplore the scanty knowledge and appreciation that town and country people have of one another; what better way to cure this than the sending of town girls and women to welcoming country homes? Many of us have thankfully remembered all through our lives some kind hostess who invited us to stay, or some fairy godmother who paid for us to travel, the odious word "pauperizing" never being used in such a case. Why should not we who spend pounds on the vacations of ourselves and our families be allowed, and, indeed, urged, to spend shillings on the much-needed holidays of those who cannot pay for themselves? The summer months are hurrying by, and there is no time to lose. "Do it now!" On merely selfish grounds we would suggest that we should enjoy our own travels more this year if we preceded them by sending a donation to the wise, careful, old-established, and indefatigable Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund. Subscriptions and donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Slater, or Miss Mary Canney, 75, Lamb's Conduit Street, London, W.C.1.

Disclaimer

Sir HAROLD GILLIES writes: In reference to an article in the *Evening Standard* of August 14th, in which my name is freely mentioned and an old photograph incorporated, I should like, through your columns, to reassure those members of the medical profession who are staunch defenders of its ethical position that not one single word on this or any other subject has been communicated to any representative of the *Evening Standard* by myself or either of my two secretaries. I wish to make it quite clear that this article and photograph were published without either my knowledge or consent.

Novocain and Cocaine

In a report of a recent inquest it was stated that novocain is a preparation of cocaine. The Saccharin Corporation, Ltd., the sole distributors of the former drug in this country, point out that it is not a preparation of cocaine, and that the latter does not enter in any form into the manufacture of novocain.

Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Correction

Professor F. J. BROWNE (University College Hospital) writes: Will you please allow me to correct an error in the report (*Journal*, August 11th, p. 266) of my remarks in the course of the discussion in the Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on "Ovarian Conditions as a Cause of Pelvic Pain." I did not say that pain was a common symptom of ovarian tumours, but only of malignant tumours. It was with this statement that Professor Dougal expressed his disagreement (p. 267).

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, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 38 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 34 and 35. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 156.