

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Prevention of Xerodermia in an Unborn Child

"INTERESTED" writes: I should be pleased if anyone could give me information about prenatal treatment of a lady three months pregnant, a multipara of 38 years, who has suffered from childhood with xerodermia (her sister has also the same complaint, but in a lesser degree). This lady has two children—a boy aged 14, and a girl 12 years. The boy has a good skin, but the girl has been worse than ever her mother has been. I am anxious to find out anything that would ensure the coming baby having a clear skin.

Income Tax

Recommencement of Earnings

"D. C." went to a Dominion for health reasons in June, 1932, and did no work until February, 1933. He was assessed in the sum of £90 at 2s. 6d. (for his share of the partnership profits) for 1933-4, and again on the same amount for 1934-5. Is this not a double assessment on the same income?

** If—as we gather—the second assessment covers his liability for the whole of the year ending April 5th, 1935, D. C. would seem to have no ground of complaint for that year. If, however, there was some special rearrangement as to division of the firm's earnings for 1933-4 he should see that he was not asked to pay on substantially more than his income for that year; if he has, then perhaps some portion of the tax assessed on his share for that year should be demanded from his partner, who presumably took over the additional work and the additional share of income during D. C.'s inability to carry on his work.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Maxillo-Facial Injuries

An advisory standing committee was appointed by the Army Council in May, 1932, to investigate and report on facilities for the treatment of the large percentage of wounds to the jaw and face which occur in modern warfare. This committee investigated particularly the provision of special hospitals or departments in general hospitals for maxillo-facial cases; the general lay-out, special features, equipment of such hospitals or departments; the general principles of treatment in the field and in such a special hospital or department; and the training of dental officers in the principles of preliminary treatment in the field. A report has now been issued on maxillo-facial injuries; it may be

obtained from H.M. Stationery Office through any bookseller, price 6d. net. A comprehensive survey of the whole subject is therein presented, with a full account of the general principles of treatment, both in the field and in hospital. For instance, the points in favour of and against interdental wiring and cap splinting in the control of fragments in jaw injuries are tabulated in an appendix comprising memoranda submitted respectively by Mr. Warwick James and Mr. W. Kelsey Fry. Among other conclusions it is recorded that a special hospital of 200 to 500 beds reserved solely for the treatment of maxillo-facial injuries is preferable to special departments in general hospitals, provided that this is justified by the number of cases. An auxiliary hospital or annexe should be attached to each for the reception of cases during the intervals of treatment. For a small war, one such hospital with its auxiliary might suffice, but for a larger campaign it might be necessary to reserve hospitals for particular types of cases, such as fractures with little or no loss of hard tissues, requiring chiefly the attention of the dental surgeon, and gross injuries to head and/or soft tissues necessitating the services of plastic or other specialist surgeons as well as dental surgeons.

Nursing of Colotomy

Nurse KATE MAXEY (Durham) writes: Here is a practical hint for the nursing of a colotomy patient. From experience I have found that a level teaspoonful of salts in warm water, followed by a cup of tea, acted after an interval of from forty to forty-five minutes. A bedpan is arranged by means of a basin four inches deep and about six inches wide, covered with grease-proof paper fastened with a rubber band. Next cut a hole in the centre of the paper large enough for the colotomy opening. Blow up an air-cushion as high as the basin, and place the basin in the centre. Turn the patient on to his or her side over the centre hole, and keep in this position for three-quarters of an hour. This treatment, I have found, minimizes the unpleasantness for the patient, and also saves soiled bandages, dressings, and garments. I have recently tried it with considerable success.

Periodic Fertility and Sterility

Dr. MARIE C. STOPES (President of the Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress, 108, Whitfield Street, W.1) writes: Your review of the book *Periodic Fertility and Sterility in Women: A Natural Method of Birth Control*, by Professor Knaus, requires supplementing lest the allegation that there is a natural "safe period" in women be taken more seriously than it deserves. A book setting out this alleged method, called *The Rhythm*, has recently caused much perturbation in America, and the large number of undesirable pregnancies which resulted from trusting the method caused a discussion in the American Legislature. We invite any of your readers who are interested to come to our reference library to see there the verbatim report of the discussion published by the U.S.A. Government in "Hearings of Subcommittee No. 8, which has just reached us.

N.A.P.T. Conference Report

Corrigendum

In our report of the Southport Conference of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (July 6th, p. 30), the name of Major A. B. Mattinson, F.R.C.V.S., is erroneously given as "Atkinson."

The Medical Supply Association, Ltd. (Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1, and 95, Wimpole Street, W.1), have published an illustrated pamphlet on heat therapy, giving particulars of a wide range of apparatus suitable for the application for radiant heat, infra-red ray therapy, chromotherapy, etc.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 47 and 48 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44 and of A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 32.