

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Treatment of Tapeworm

"J. R. F. P." writes: I have a patient, an animal slaughterer, who is possessed of a tapeworm. Treatment by the usual method of aperients, fasting, and filix mas has, after repeated attempts, only succeeded in removing the numerous caudal segments of the worm, while the head remains immovable. Is there any other method one can adopt to eliminate the head?

Frequency of Micturition

"J. A. F." writes: In reply to "N. B. S.'s" inquiry (*Journal*, July 27th, p. 194) regarding a case of frequent micturition in a lady of 70, I suggest that he might try liq. ergotae 15 minims three times a day in a mixture flavoured with aq. chlorof., continued for a week and then given a rest. I have used it, in smaller doses, in many cases of incontinence of urine in young children with very gratifying results.

Car Sickness

"W. R. A." writes in answer to "H. V." (*Journal*, July 27th, p. 193): I have found chloretone (Parke Davis) (5 grains) in capsules invaluable as a prophylactic both in children and in adults. A dose is given one hour before starting, another actually at the start, and, if the journey is long, a further one two or three hours after. In the case mentioned of a child of 3½ half the dose (2½ grains) would be ample.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Anti-gas Measures

The Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office has issued this week a handbook entitled *Anti-gas Precautions and First Aid for Air Raid Casualties* (H.M. Stationery Office, 6d.; post free, 8d.). This opens with a general preface, which refers to the whole series of handbooks now in preparation, and emphasizes that their production is a measure of precaution only and does not arise from any belief that war is imminent. The first of the series has been written primarily for those who would be engaged on first-aid services for the civil population, and especially members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the St. Andrews Ambulance Association, and the British Red Cross Society. It includes a description of the gases and other chemical agents which might be employed in war, and indicates the probable methods of their use. Then follow chapters dealing with the general principles for obtaining protection—both personal precautions and the preparation of rooms in which shelter may be obtained. Two types of respirators are described—the general service type as issued to the armed Forces, and the special service

respirator, which is a simplified pattern designed mainly for certain classes of persons employed in civil air-raid services. The later chapters describe the organization of the first-aid services, and give the methods of treatment recommended for the various types of gas casualty. They also deal with the decontamination of personnel and clothing, and to a limited extent the decontamination of houses, roads, vehicles, etc. The last chapter describes the organization of a combined first-aid and decontamination centre for members of the public.

Founder's Day at Epsom

An Old Epsomian, whose father was at the College in the early 'sixties, and whose grandfather attended the opening ceremony in 1853, writes: After a lapse of years I was able to go down for Founder's Day at Epsom last Saturday. The weather was delightful, and the College buildings showed to advantage. The new sanatorium—unfortunately closed for the time being—was admired from the outside. The prize-giving in the big schoolroom, and the excellent tea in the grounds to the strains of the East Yorks Band all went well. But I missed meeting my contemporaries there seemed to be comparatively few Old Epsomians present. It is, I fear, a habit easy to grow into, that of missing a very pleasant afternoon once a year. Those of us near London, with cars, should always make an effort to attend.

Reunion of War-blinded Masseurs

On July 20th more than fifty blinded ex-service men who had been trained in massage by St. Dunstan's and are now practising as chartered masseurs and biophysical assistants in all parts of the country held their annual reunion at St. Dunstan's in Regent's Park. After luncheon, at which Sir Ian Fraser presided, Dr. Adolphe Abrahams addressed the men on "Fitness and Athletics." Massage, he said, was a curious subject, because the common man looked on it either as a thing capable of doing everything or as a thing capable of doing nothing at all. A great deal had been, and still was, claimed for massage by charlatans which could not be borne out, but what was obvious was that massage could help men to keep fit, and that it could be a great help in the treatment of minor injuries. Above all, there was the psychological value of massage to the athlete. Fitness was not a perquisite of very young men. A man could improve to be a great athlete until the age of 32. As far as ordinary fitness was concerned, a man could go on until the last days of his life taking what some might describe as violent exercise. In relation to the masseurs themselves, Dr. Abrahams went on to comment on the value of their own physical fitness. Psychologically, he said, it was established that a great deal accrued from the association of fit people with their patients. The "atmospheric" influence of being fit vitally affected the people with whom masseurs were so closely in contact.

Fumigation with Hydrocyanic Acid

The London Fumigation Company (Marlow House, Lloyds Avenue, E.C.3) issued, in connexion with the Royal Sanitary Institute's health congress at Bournemouth last month, a small booklet in which all the practical information relating to fumigation with hydrogen cyanide is assembled. The booklet runs to thirty-six pages, and covers the subject well. It is intended for the guidance of public health officials, and should prove invaluable to those about to prosecute a campaign against *Cimex lectularius*.

Transposition of Viscera

Dr. F. A. BEAM (London, W.1) writes: Two patients of mine have transposition of viscera; one is the offspring of first cousins, the other not.

A Warning

A correspondent practising in London asks us to insert a warning about a young girl who has victimized several dermatologists. "She requires treatment for cosmetic blemish, and says that her brother, who is abroad, will settle up on his return. As soon as one specialist refuses to continue without some fee she goes off to another."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals will be found at pages 37, 38, 39, 42, 43, and 44 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 40 and 41. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 92.