

British Medical Journal

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AUGUST 24, 1935



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LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Analgesia for Suturing Cuts

Dr. H. C. DUFFY sends the following very practical note: The suture of cuts and lacerations may, by a simple technique, be accomplished under local anaesthesia without even the preliminary needle-prick. This is an advantage in children and nervous patients, or if the injury is fairly extensive and it is not desired to give a general anaesthetic. A few drops of one's favourite local anaesthetic is dropped into the wound from a hypodermic syringe, with or without explanation, and left for a few seconds. The needle is now introduced through the wound and under the skin margin. A small amount of anaesthetic is then slowly injected. From this area it is now possible to give an intradermal injection from the inner surface of the skin and extend the anaesthesia from there as far as may be necessary. A satisfactory toilette and suture of the wound can now be made. An added liability to sepsis might be expected, as the needle is introduced through the wound before thorough cleansing. In practice I have seen less sepsis, perhaps because a more thorough toilette is possible. I have seen no ill effects from the anaesthetic itself, and the increased time needed is amply repaid. I have used the method for at least two years. Its scope is indicated by the last case tried—a ragged cut below the elbow, four inches long, extended down to the ulna. Three sutures were needed in the periosteum of the ulna and ten skin sutures.

Developmental Defects of the Vagina

Dr. J. R. F. POPPLEWELL (Whittlesey, near Peterborough) writes: With reference to the clinical memorandum by Captain A. T. Andreason (August 3rd, p. 211) describing developmental defect of the vagina, I was glancing through the *Medico-Chirurgical Review* of 1823-4 and I came across two cases quoted in that journal. No. 1 states: "M. Fournier relates the case of a woman, 22 years of age, whom he found to have the anus imperforate from birth. The rectum opened without any sphincter into the vagina." No. 2: "Vallesneri dissected a female in whom were found two uteri; the orifice of one opened into the vagina, of the other into the rectum. M. Fournier says there is no doubt but that coitus per anum would have been followed by conception. He grounds this opinion on a curious case related by the celebrated Louis, of a young lady who had a congenital imperforation of the external organs of generation. She was solicited in marriage by a young man to whom she was attached. After much resistance she confessed to him a secret: 'Dans le delire de sa passion, il supplia son amant de consentir a ce qu'il s'unit a elle par la seule voie qui fut practicable; elle souscrivit a tout et bientot elle devint mere. L'accouchement a terme d'un enfant bien formé, eut lieu par l'anus.' Louis made this the subject of a thesis and was prosecuted by the Parliament of Paris, and the doctors of the Sorbonne interdicted him for addressing to the casuists the following question: 'In uxore, sic disposita, uti fas sit, vel non? Judicent theologi morales.' The Pope, however, more philosophic than the Parliament or the Sorbonne, gave absolution to Monsieur Louis, and his thesis was published in 1754." Surely this must be a very early publication of congenital abnormalities.

Extraction of the Placenta

Dr. J. A. FRANCIS (London, N.W.) writes: Some fifteen years ago I suggested in the *Journal* that in the great majority of cases of puerperal septicaemia the cause was decomposition of portions of membrane left behind in the uterus, and not from germs introduced from without. I am still of that opinion. It seems to me that no attempt should be made to extract the placenta after the birth of the child until it is found to be well down in the vagina and free from the uterus, and no aid should be used except the gentlest pressure on the abdomen. The time after the delivery of the child may be anything from ten minutes to an hour (unless urgent symptoms demand quick action). Considering the delicate and easily tearable texture of the membranes I believe that the Cr  d   method of expulsion of the placenta by strong pressure on the abdomen, especially if the placenta is still in the uterus, is unscientific and dangerous, and is not so good, even with the placenta in the vagina, as the old-fashioned method—namely, two fingers of the left hand round the edge of the placenta, the right hand steady with the cord, while the patient is made to give a few hard coughs. The placenta should be turned round after delivery six or seven times to form

the membranes into a rope, and so strengthen them so that they may corkscrew themselves out of the os uteri without any direct pull.

Tubercle Bacilli and Expectoration

Dr. G. A. POWELL TUCK (Wolverhampton) writes: The habit of spitting, so common with many people, apart from being a most repulsive one, is in some cases no insignificant factor in the dissemination of pulmonary tuberculosis. Considering the efforts to lessen the number of cases of this disease, it seems that too little and lenient attention is paid to those who practise it. On the Continent, in certain localities such a breach of conduct is punished by the imposition of a fine. It is a pity that offenders in this country are not more severely dealt with.

Notes for Travellers

In *The Traveller's Pocket Reference*, published by the Anglo-Continental and International Publishing Offices, Lausanne, will be found information about a very large number of health resorts and hotels in this country and abroad. It is a condensed form of the larger *Twentieth Century Health and Pleasure Resorts* which emanates from the same publishers. A volume of this size could not be expected to be comprehensive, nor to contain details about charges; but there is occasion for wonder as to the principles, if any, that guided the selection of the mentioned hotels, nursing homes, and treatment centres. The chief value of this little book lies in its general account of Continental countries from the tourist's point of view, and the intending visitor who is wholly ignorant of the nature of his destination will in many cases be helped not least by the small diagrammatic maps of the chief resorts. There are some useful general hints for travellers on the Continent which are worthy of attention by novices, and some general remarks on other topics which savour too much of propaganda or interested advertisement to be attractive.

Ethical Pharmaceuticals Association

A number of firms manufacturing preparations which are not advertised to the public have formed themselves into an association to represent this branch of the pharmaceutical trade. The chief objects of the Ethical Pharmaceuticals Association are to conserve the interests of the members, to afford a means of exchanging views in matters of mutual concern, and, in general, to act on behalf of members on all trade matters. The office is at Coronation House, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C.3, and the participating firms are the Anglo-French Drug Co., Ltd., Bayer Products, Ltd., Bengue and Co., Ltd., British Organotherapy Co., Ltd., Brooks and Warburton, Ltd., Ciba Limited, Coates and Cooper, Ltd., the Hoffmann-La Roche Chemical Works, Ltd., H. R. Napp Limited, Organon Laboratories, S. C. Ritchie—G. W. Carnrick Co., Francis O. Rudolph-Riddell, Sandoz Products (J. Flint), Schering Limited, Wilcox, Jozeau and Co., Chas. Zimmerman and Co., Ltd.

"A Case of Cushing's Syndrome"**Correction**

In the original article under this title, which appeared in the *Journal* of August 10th (p. 253), and in the section giving the case report and headed "Progress," the patient's basal metabolic rate is erroneously given as 27 per cent. This should have read *minus* 27 per cent.

Starving Birds

Mr. WILFRED MARK WEBB, honorary secretary of the Selborne Society, writes: Wild birds are feeling the effects of the drought, which has sent the worms out of reach and caused a shortage of insect food. Many birds are dying, though bird lovers are doing what they can. I would beg others to help by regularly putting out food—preferably soft.

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, and 42 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 124.

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- KENT. — LARGE TOWN. —**Old-established mixed-class PRACTICE averaging approximately £1,400 p.a. Panel of over 1,000. Fees from 2/6. Detached 14-roomed house, with separate professional accommodation and all modern conveniences. Freehold will be sold or rented on lease at £90 p.a. Fair-sized garden and garage. Premium 2 years' purchase.
- S. WALES.**—Old-established PRACTICE producing about £1,300 p.a., including panel of 1,000. Vendor relinquishing to take up special work. Premium for Practice and house £2,000.
- W. MIDLANDS.**—Old-established unopposed PRACTICE in delightful country district within 12 miles of large town. Gross cash receipts average £900 p.a., £500 of which is from panel and appointments. Fees 3/6 to 10/6. Detached house in good condition, 3 reception, 6 bedrooms, etc. Large garden. Price £1,250, part on mortgage. Hunting, fishing, etc. Premium 1½ years' purchase.
- SALOP.**—Unopposed easily worked PRACTICE in beautiful residential and agricultural district. Gross cash receipts average £950 p.a., including £310 from panel and over £100 from appointments. Fees from 3/6 (medicine extra). Little midwifery. House, with 2 reception, 5 bedrooms, etc. Garage for 2 cars. Garden of 3½ acres. Electric lighting plant. Rent on lease £80 p.a. Sport of all kinds. Premium 1½ years' purchase.
- LONDON, S.E.**—Very old-established good middle and working-class PRACTICE averaging for past 3 years £1,700 p.a., including large panel. Suitable house, with sitting room, 3 bedrooms, and good professional accommodation. Price £750. Premium 2½ years' purchase.
- EAST COAST.—FAVOURITE LOCALITY NEAR POPULAR TOWN.**—Very old-established unopposed PRACTICE averaging over £1,000 p.a. Panel of about 1,000 and transferable appointments worth about £60 p.a. Very low expenses. Fees 2/6 to 10/6. Midwifery from 2 gns. Nice house, with 3 reception, 5 bedrooms, good professional accommodation. Electric light. Good garden. Garage. Can be rented at £100 p.a. Sport of all kinds and good schools within reach. Scope for increase as district is developing. Premium 2 years' purchase.
- MIDLANDS.—UNOPPOSED COUNTRY PRACTICE.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A three-eighths share is offered (with ultimate succession) in an old-established country practice producing for the last 12 months nearly £1,700. Panel of 1,370 at 11/6 p.c., plus mileage. Appointments worth about £80 p.a. Low expenses. Fees 5/- to one guinea. Good house, with 4 bedrooms, 2 reception, and professional rooms with separate entrance. Electric light. Good garden. Garage. Can be rented at £52 p.a. Sport of all kinds. Premium £1,300.
- LIVERPOOL.**—Recently established middle and working-class PRACTICE offering excellent scope for increase. Gross cash receipts approximately £850 p.a. Panel of 358 (recently started). Surgery premises from which Practice is worked can be rented at £55 p.a. Purchaser can choose his own residence. Prem. 1½ years' purchase.
- HOME COUNTIES.—ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITHIN EASY REACH OF LONDON.**—Well-established good middle and working-class PRACTICE in rapidly developing district offering good scope. Gross cash receipts for last 12 months approximately £1,500. Panel of about 926. No appointments. Fees 3/- to 21/-. Moderate expenses. No immediate opposition. Nice detached house with good garden on main road, with 2 reception, 4 bedrooms, professional rooms (separate entrance). Electric light. Garage. Rent £95 p.a. Premium £3,000.
- NURSING HOME (for better-class patients) IN GOOD RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITHIN EASY REACH OF LONDON.**—Non-certifiable, mental, convalescent patients, and those suffering from nervous diseases accepted. Fees from 8 gns. a week. Net profits £1,000 to £1,200 p.a. Very good house, with large grounds to rent. Premium for goodwill £1,200.
- OUTLYING RESIDENTIAL SUBURB.**—A one-sixth share is offered in very old-established increasing PRACTICE averaging for last 3 years about £4,200 p.a. (this year at the rate of over £4,700 p.a.). Panel of 900. Fees from 3/-. Good house specially built for doctor, containing 2 reception, 4 bedrooms, separate professional accommodation, on rental at £100 p.a. Garden. Garage. Premium 2 years' purchase. Ingoing partner should be under 32 years of age and experienced.
- WITHIN 30 MILES OF LONDON.**—Very attractive residential district. —PARTNERSHIP.—A one-half share is offered for disposal in a chiefly better-class Practice in very select neighbourhood offering good scope for increase. Gross cash receipts approximately £2,100 p.a. Excellent house, with 1½ acres of ground. Price for freehold £2,500. (substantial mortgage can be obtained). Premium £2,000. Ingoing partner must be a University Graduate and experienced.
- AFRICA. — UNOPPOSED PRACTICE IN DELIGHTFUL DISTRICT WITH GOOD CLIMATE.**—Established by Vendor (lady doctor) 9 years. Gross cash receipts for last 4 years £400 p.a., including transferable appointment worth £10 12s. per month. Suitable bungalow with 20 acres of land. Premium (to include bungalow and all furniture, etc.) £700. Sport of all kinds and living exceedingly cheap. Practice would be equally suitable for a medical man.
- S.W. ENGLAND.—COAST TOWN.**—Well-established non-panel Practice averaging for last 3 years £472 p.a. Fees 5/- to 21/-. Medicine extra. No midwifery. House in good position with 2 reception, 7 bedrooms, etc. Rent £185 p.a. Premium £600.
- ASSISTANTSHIP WITH VIEW.**—A one-fifth share (with increase up to one-third later) is offered after preliminary Assistantship in very old-established good mixed-class Practice situated in residential town within 20 miles of London. Gross cash receipts over £3,000 p.a. Fees 4/- to 10/6. Suitable accommodation available. Premium 2 years' purchase. Ingoing partner should be about 30 to 35 and capable of undertaking surgery as there is definite scope for the work.
- KENT.—RESIDENTIAL TOWN WITHIN EASY REACH OF LONDON.**—Chiefly private practice, recently established and rapidly increasing, with definite scope for much greater development, now producing at the rate of about £700 p.a. Panel of 200. Fees 3/- to 10/6. Specially built detached house, with nice garden, containing 4 bedrooms, etc. Price for freehold £1,750. Premium £850.
- NORTH WALES.**—Old-established non-panel, non-dispensing PRACTICE producing for last 12 months approximately £1,200 p.a. Fees 5/- to 21/-. Midwifery from 5 to 21 gns. Good house, with 2 reception, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, maids' room, etc. Garage and ground of one acre. Freehold for sale, or would be rented at £140 p.a. Premium £2,000 or near offer. Ill-health reason for sale.
- N.W. LONDON.**—Old-established PRACTICE producing about £650 p.a., including panel of about 400 patients. Surgery and consulting room rented at £90 p.a. Choice of houses. Premium 1½ years' purchase. Ill-health reason for sale.
- SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTY.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A two-fifths share is offered in old-established Practice situated in very beautiful country district, producing for last 12 months nearly £2,300. Panel of about 1,400. Fees 2/6 to one guinea. Good house, with nice garden. Price for freehold £1,350. Premium for share 2 years' purchase.
- KENT COAST TOWN.**—Well-established PRACTICE averaging about £500 p.a., including panel of 400. Fees 3/6 to one guinea. Suitable house, with 4 bedrooms, etc., can be rented at £65 p.a. Premium 1½ years' purchase or near offer.
- NORTH OF ENGLAND.—PROSPEROUS TOWN WITHIN EASY REACH OF COAST.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A one-third share (with increase up to one-half in 2 years or sooner) is offered in well-established good mixed-class Practice having large scope for development, and averaging about £2,400 p.a. Panel of over 2,000. P.M.S. and appointments bring in about £130 p.a. Fees 2/6 to 10/6. Choice of houses. Good schools and sport. Premium for share 2 years' purchase.
- NORTH LONDON.**—Recently established middle and working-class PRACTICE, offering good scope. Gross cash receipts for last 12 months approximately £320. Panel of 230. Suitable accommodation can be rented at £9 10s. per month, part sub-let at £4 per month. Premium £350.
- WEST OF ENGLAND.—GOOD RESIDENTIAL TOWN.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A three-fourths share (with succession to the whole Practice within a year or two) is offered in well-established mainly good-class non-dispensing Practice averaging approximately £880 p.a. Suitable house, with ample accommodation can be rented at £90 p.a. Premium for share £1,300, payable £1,000 down.
- LONDON, EAST.**—Well-established middle and working-class PRACTICE averaging over £800 p.a., including panel of 475. Fees 3/- to 5/-. Suitable house can be purchased or rented. Reasonable offer accepted. Good scope for increase.
- SURREY.—DELIGHTFUL RESIDENTIAL TOWN.—ASSISTANTSHIP** with view to Partnership.—A share worth approximately £700 p.a. (with increase later) is for disposal in well-established good mixed-class Practice having scope for increase. Ingoing Partner should be well qualified and interested in medicine.
- CORNWALL.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A one-half share is offered in very old-established good mixed-class Practice offering scope for surgery. Average gross cash receipts for past 3 years £4,184 (last year £4,377). Panel of 680. Visits 5/- to 21/-. Medicine extra. Suitable house of moderate size with garden of about 2 acres, on lease. Sport of all kinds. Premium 2 years' purchase. Ingoing partner must be well qualified and experienced.
- ESSEX.—OUTLYING RESIDENTIAL SUBURB.—PARTNERSHIP.**—A three-twelfths share (with increase later) is offered in very old-established sound and rapidly increasing good mixed-class Practice with scope for further development. Gross cash receipts for past 12 months approximately £4,800. (Stated to be scope to at least £6,000.) Panel of 1,430. Appointment worth £75 p.a. Fees 3/- to 6/6. Midwifery from 5 gns., about 60 cases yearly. Small modern house, with 2 sitting, 4 bedrooms, etc. Rent £125 p.a. Premium 2 years' purchase. Ingoing partner must be good Anaesthetist and Physician, aged 30 to 35. English or Scottish.
- LONDON, S.W.**—Old-established mixed-class mainly cash PRACTICE held by Vendor for past 16 years. Gross cash receipts for immediate past 12 months stated to be over £1,160. Panel of about 1,200 patients. Fees 2/6 to 5/-. Semi-detached corner house, with 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, and professional rooms. Small garden. Price for leasehold £1,350. Premium 2 years' purchase.

The Agency has made arrangements for special facilities, on very favourable terms, to be afforded to approved purchasers for the advance of part of the premium for any suitable practice or partnership. Full details on application.