

**Treatment of Radium "Burn"**

"INQUIRER," who asked for suggestions (*Journal*, April 20th, p. 861) for the treatment of a persistent erythematous condition of the skin following the application of superficial x rays, and, later, radium treatment, in a case where a radical operation had been performed for the removal of a carcinomatous breast, now writes: I am pleased to say that the patient is now free from this condition and in very good health, there being, so far, no signs of any recurrence of malignancy. The treatment employed was washing the part with a mild disinfectant lotion and applying fresh, cold cream from a farm twice daily. The itching was gradually allayed and the redness faded, but the affected area extended from the edge of a circular patch six inches in diameter to both sides of the chest and just round to the back. By constant application, however, this gradually faded away, and about three weeks ago had, with the exception of a few spots, almost disappeared. These have now gone, and the skin is free from this condition. The writer has previously noticed the efficacious effects of fresh, cold cream in the case of a man, who had an erysipelous-like reddening of the lower part of the left side of the nose, due to sun exposure. If the cream is applied when it is turning sour it only aggravates the redness—it must be fresh.

**Humidity of Flats**

"CIVIL ENGINEER" writes: With very dry ground after a long drought there would be perhaps no difference in humidity of air at ground levels and high levels as the air would just be as dry at ground level as at twenty feet up. But with ground soaking wet or with ground covered with snow a very great difference might be expected in the humidity of the air, the air at ground level being very humid and diminishing in humidity up to say fifteen or twenty feet. If the windows of a ground flat and an upper flat were left open, then there would drift in a greater dampness in the case of the ground floor than in the case of the upper flat. It perhaps is common knowledge that iron is more difficult to be kept from rust on a ground floor than on an upper floor. It is perhaps also common knowledge that the smell of damp air is more evident at ground floor windows than at upper windows. Perhaps some of your readers might be good enough to give their experience, especially in regard to health of one or other. The question arises as to the design of certain hospital buildings, and is not a merely academic question.

**Income Tax****Expenses of Assistant**

"R. L. S." inquires as to (1) travelling expenses for an interview for an assistantship, (2) loss on sale of car, and (3) living, etc., expenses while unemployed.

\*\* (1) Not allowable to an assistant as being anterior to the employment; (2) allowable only to the extent to which the loss is covered by the cost of replacing the car for professional use; and (3) no allowance is due.

**Payments on Property in Scotland**

"J. M." purchased a house in Scotland as from April 1st, 1934. At Whit-Sunday, 1934, he became liable for half a year's feu-duty and stipend (£8 15s. 7d.) and £9 5s. bond interest, and those payments were made under deduction of tax. The Scottish inspector claims that these payments must be regarded as deductions in arriving at his net total income for the year ending April 5th, 1934. "J. M." is adversely affected by that, owing to the restrictions of life assurance and earned income relief.

\*\* As regards the feu-duty and stipend payment we agree with the Scottish inspector. Rule 4 (1) of No. VIII, Schedule A, provides that where lands, tenements, etc., in Scotland are subject to the payment of annual sums tax shall, as regards periods ending on May 15th, be deducted at the rate in force at the commencement of such periods—that is, in the present case at the rate in force for 1933-4. Section 39 (2) of the Finance Act, 1927, lays down the rule that payments from which tax is deductible are to be deemed to be deductions from total income of the year by which the rate of tax is determinable "notwithstanding that the . . . sums . . . accrued . . . in whole or part before or after that year." The combined effect of these two provisions is to make the feu-duty and stipend payments due on May 15th, 1935, deductions in arriving at the net total income for the year to April 5th, 1935. We are of opinion, however, that the inspector's view can be challenged as regards the bond interest payment, because we regard

Rule 4 of No. VIII, Schedule A, as applying to rents and payments in the nature of rents rather than to bond interest. But it must be admitted that the matter is open to doubt where the payment of the interest is secured on the property, as in this case. Our grounds for this view is that interest is dealt with in the general rules, and No. VIII, Schedule A, is clearly framed to deal with rents and similar payments issuing out of lands.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****Destruction of the Cadaver with Sulphuric Acid**

Interested in the case of Sarret, a French murderer convicted in 1933 of having done to death victims whom he had previously insured and of whose corpses he had disposed by dissolution in a bath of  $H_2SO_4$ , J. R. Obiglio and two others, writing in *Semana Médica* (January 31st, 1935), have experimented similarly on stillborn children and lower animals. They conclude that Sarret's crimes may be successfully reproduced at any moment; that complete destruction is secured only when the tissue is entirely submerged in acid; and that there is a distinct relationship between the age of the victim and the time taken by the acid to destroy all remains. After destruction it is possible to demonstrate the chemical qualities of foreign matter in the liquid, these varying according to the type of tissue destroyed. Crystals and drops of oil may be seen in the sediment. The authors add that it is perfectly easy to get rid of the used liquid by pouring it into a sewer or by burying it at any depth below 60 centimetres.

**Pollution of the Thames**

Mr. S. A. JEWERS (Town Clerk, Town Hall, Barking, Essex) writes: With reference to the many articles and communications which have recently appeared in your valuable *Journal*, without exception all of them are inaccurate in that they refer to the outfall at Barking, or at Barking Creek. In point of fact there is no outfall at Barking or at Barking Creek, and sewage does not enter the Thames at this point. The outfall of the London County Council works enters the Thames from the metropolitan borough of Woolwich, and for many years Barking has been known inaccurately as the home of London sewage, and I think it is about time that these statements should be contradicted.

**First Aid Refused**

"A MEMBER OF COUNCIL" writes: I happened to be on the spot when a woman was knocked down by a bus, near the top of Tottenham Court Road, and very naturally proffered assistance. This was refused by the police, although similar offers by other bystanders, who may or may not have been St. John Ambulance men, were accepted. I asked the sergeant why my offer was refused, and his reply, in effect, was, "How do I know you are a doctor? Anybody can call himself a doctor. Have you got your certificates with you?" His manner was insolent in the extreme, so I came away.

**North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent**

Mr. W. STEVENSON (secretary and house governor) writes: Please permit me to point out that the above-named institution is proud of the fact that it has the right to call itself Royal, a right granted in person by His Majesty King George V in June, 1925. Your description of it in the *Journal* of August 31st (p. 406) as "The North Staffordshire Infirmary at Hartshill" hardly does it credit, and is not, I may add, a sufficient postal address.

**Poster for Display in Swimming Baths**

The Health and Cleanliness Council (5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1) has issued a new poster designed for use in swimming baths. Its object is to impress upon people using public and other swimming baths the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness of persons before entering the bath. The council will be pleased to supply copies of the poster; applications should be addressed to the secretary at the above address.

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 53 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 136.