

Two courses of lectures and demonstrations on anti-gas precautions and first aid for air-raid casualties will be held at the County of London Red Cross Headquarters (9, Chesham Street, S.W.) on Fridays at 2.30 and 8 p.m., commencing on October 4th. The lectures are open to the public, so far as accommodation will permit, and the fee for the course is 7s. 6d. Permits to attend the lectures will be issued to those who send in their names and addresses, together with the fee, not later than September 28th, to the county secretary at the above address.

An international post-graduate course on gout and rheumatism will be held at Radiumbad Brambrach from October 4th to 7th, under the direction of Professor Gudzent of Berlin.

The Duke of York, having agreed to accept the Presidency of King's College Hospital, S.E., the Duke of Connaught, who has held the post of President for nearly thirty-two years, is resigning in his favour.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone, unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are  
EDITOR OF THE *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, *Aitology Westcent, London.*

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Wintering in the Channel Islands

"E. F. D." requires information *re* suitability, accommodation, cost, etc., for a case of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis wintering in Jersey or Guernsey. The patient is a male, in fair condition, ambulant, but with very slowly progressive disease.

\*\* We are indebted to Dr. R. FORTESCUE FOX for the following answer to our correspondent's inquiry. "The Channel Islands, with many English seaside resorts in the south-west and north-west, possess a similar type of climate, with important variations both in the localities and in the wintry months taken separately. This type of winter climate may be recommended for middle-aged and elderly patients, especially those showing bronchial irritation. In the choice of locality special regard should be had to aspect, subsoil, freedom from fogs, and especially shelter from strong winds. For this reason the Channel Islands, which make a good winter retreat, are not to be recommended for tuberculous cases in the spring months. A useful criterion for these cases is the character of the 'invalids' day'—that is, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (see *Handbook of the British Health Resorts Association*, 1935). In places—and they are not uncommon on the south-west and north-west coast—where a large proportion of this daylight period can be spent pleasantly and safely in the open air, cases can be expected to do well. Only private accommodation for patients is available in Guernsey and Jersey. Inquiries may, however, be addressed to the Victoria Hospital, Guernsey, and the Jersey Dispensary and Infirmary."

### Frequency of Micturition

"A. B." (Pietermaritzburg, Natal), in reply to "N. B. S." (*Journal*, July 27th, p. 194), who inquired for a successful remedy for this condition in an elderly lady apparently free from organic disease, writes: I have had repeated success in my own family from the use of freshly prepared linseed tea, a cupful being taken three or four times a day. It was recommended by friends in an obstinate case in one of my children, and gave marked results. The incontinence ceased in a few days, but recurred several times if the child had a cold bath or sea-bathed. The treatment then caused it to cease, and it has not recurred now for some years. The treatment is simple, harmless, and surely worthy of extended trial.

### Income Tax

#### Payment for Guaranteeing a Loan

"H. A. L." asks whether it is customary for such payments to be allowed.

\*\* We know of no case where such payments are allowed where the loan in question was obtained to purchase a practice or share in one. It seems analogous to guarantee premiums paid to secure debentures, and the accepted practice appears to be to refuse the deduction of such premiums.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### Extrasystoles

Dr. C. S. FOSTER (London, S.W.1) writes: Having seen several cases of this complaint, I think it might help my fellow medical men to know of my experience. In all the cases the cause has apparently been due to mental strain. In one instance the attack came on only when the patient was shaving in the morning, preventing him shaving, and lasting until after breakfast. His age was 64, and he was a healthy man, though he had a great deal of worry in business, which produced considerable flatulence. He had no hobbies. Another case was that of a very keen business man, aged 65, who always exaggerated any trouble, and could not get it off his mind. He had attacks just before going to sleep, generally half an hour after getting into bed. He, too, had no hobby. Another case was that of a man who had had indigestion all his life (chief symptom flatulence), and who, after reaching the age of 60, had attacks when excessively worried, or when going longer without food than usual. The severity of the attack varied with the amount of fatigue. The final case was that of a keen business woman who, at the menopause, suddenly developed attacks about 3 a.m., with marked depression. All these cases responded to treatment, and none have had a return of the attacks. Gastric and nerve remedies were given, with strict attention to diet, but no remedies to produce sleep.

### Too Many Doctors in the Argentine

Dr. Rafael Bullrich, dean of the Medical Faculty of Buenos Aires, in his address at the inauguration of the new session (*Semana Médica*, April 11th) states that the Argentine Republic, with a population of 12,000,000, has a yearly output from her medical schools of 600 new doctors, while Belgium, whose population is but slightly less, thinks that her output of 300 is too great. He calls for united action of the medical faculties of the Republic with the idea of limiting the number of entrants and raising and equalizing the standard of knowledge demanded from candidates for degrees in medicine and dentistry. Soviet Russia, he declares, in endeavouring to recruit the medical profession from the ranks of the manual worker, and in doing all in its power to prevent the doctor's son from following in his father's footsteps, is shamefully lowering the cultural level of the new race of doctor and is destroying tradition, which is one of the greatest forces in a nation's historical unity.

### 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, 44, 45, 48, and 49 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 46 and 47.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 148.