

"PHYSICIAN" writes: In reply to "Perplexed" (October 19th, p. 769), who asks for the treatment of persistent lactation in the mother of a boy now aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, might I suggest that he tries the effect of large doses of oestrin. In *Medical Clinics of North America* (vol. xix, No. 1, p. 205) he will find an article by Mazer and Israel giving some details of an article about to be published. It is reasonable to believe that the persistent lactation in this case is due to some pituitary-ovarian imbalance, and that large doses of oestrin might restore the balance and so terminate the lactation.

Chronic Dermatitis

"J. M. M. D." writes: I have a patient, a male aged 21, who has suffered from a dermatitis since the age of 3 months. The skin lesions are never completely healed, but there are occasional exacerbations with development of "weeping" patches on the dorsum of the hands and forearms and occasionally on face and buttocks. These later dry up, leaving scaly patches with fissures in between. He has had all the standard lotions, pastes, and ointments for local treatment, and has at various times been dosed with tonics, calcium lactate, arsenic, etc. An attempt at protein shock therapy with T.A.B. vaccine was made in a hospital without success, and later he received a course of peptone injections. Autohaemotherapy has also failed. I should be grateful for any suggestions.

Aphonia

Dr. JOHN DONALD writes: Would any reader give the prognosis in the case of a female, aged 50, whose left vocal cord will not come to the middle line on phonation; cords pale; whispering for two years.

Analgesia for Suturing Cuts

"T. M. P." writes in reply to the query by "G. P." (September 7th, p. 483): May I call attention to a special surgical dressing which is prepared by Abbott Laboratories, Ltd., to prevent sticking. It is marketed under the name of "parresined lace-mesh surgical dressing," and is a non-sticking gauze dressing which prevents all over-dressings from adhering, and ensures free wound drainage. Samples of the material may be obtained from John Bell & Croyden, 50, Wigmore Street, W.1.

Income Tax

Expenses—What Proportion?

"J. B." inquires what percentage of the various classes of expenditure should be regarded as allowable.

** Circumstances vary so much that any specific percentage of such expenses as rent and rates, servants' wages and board, etc., is very difficult to suggest, and might be misleading. A common ratio is one-half, but that might be inadequate where a special rent is paid for a "site" (for example, in the West End of London), and might possibly be excessive in the case of a large family house—in fact, the only real test is what is a fair division, having regard to space occupied and the relatively high value of ground-floor rooms. Repairs can usually be allocated specifically to the professional portions of the premises. Subscriptions to professional associations are allowable, but a claim for those to local charities cannot be legally enforced. Motor expenses (including chauffeur's wages, etc.) should be divided on a mileage basis as nearly as possible.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

The London Medical Exhibition

The London Medical Exhibition—of drugs, foods, surgical equipment, and the like—has been held from October 21st to 25th in the hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, Westminster, where nearly 170 stands have been accommodated, displaying the products of 140 firms. The first impression of such an exhibition is that one has seen it all before, but a nearer view discloses many variants—presumably improvements—on familiar products. Moreover, a list was handed to us of fifty or more preparations or devices of one kind or another which were being shown for the first time. An unusually large number of stands were devoted to glandular preparations; surgical instruments had a good showing; among electro-medical apparatus were several examples of short-wave diathermy machines; there were

the usual seductive food stands, and the almost equally seductive pharmaceutical displays. One stand was devoted solely to rubber gloves, and two were given up entirely to contraceptive devices. Nearly a dozen bookstalls added to the interest of the exhibition, and three British spas advertised their attractions. Among products shown for the first time at this exhibition were sodium mandelate, for use in the treatment of urinary infections; a gonad-stimulating substance from the urine of pregnancy; a malt and cod-liver oil claiming to be three times stronger in vitamin potency than the usual product; a concentrated preparation of the growth hormone from the anterior lobe of the pituitary, intended for the treatment of endocrine dwarfism; British grass pollens for the treatment of hay fever; and British bee venom for fibrositis. An exhibit that created special interest was a portable electrocardiograph providing for both photographic recording and also direct visual observation, the tracing out of the wave form being made visible to the eye by the use of an oscillograph screen with a long afterglow, and as the afterglow is of some seconds' duration several cardiac cycles remain simultaneously visible. There were several devices for the comfort of patients; one (already described in these columns on August 10th) was a pair of spectacles to enable one to read with convenience whilst lying down. Again, there was the new gas fire which can be regulated from the bed by means of an automatic switch. Altogether the exhibition demonstrated again the resource and energy which wait upon the medical profession, supplying its demands—at times creating them—for new devices and procedures.

The Intrauterine Pessary in Germany

After discussion of an introductory paper, in which GESENIUS (*Zentralbl. f. Gynäk.*, September 14th) advocated that the introduction of the intrauterine pessary should be forbidden, the Berlin Medical Society, in April, 1935, passed a unanimous resolution that the insertion of an intrauterine pessary is a "negligent treatment" in the sense required for legal proscription. The institution of juridical penalties is contemplated: it has long been advocated by many German physicians.

Medical Golf

A week-end meeting of the London Irish Medical Golfing Society was held at Sandwich on October 12th and 13th, with the following results. O'Malley Cup: First, R. H. Jones (2 up); second, M. J. Smyth and M. Thomson (all square). Lett Cup (Foursomes): Winners, F. D. Donovan and G. Quinn (on the second nine after a tie); runners-up, L. F. Clarke and M. O'Regan. Canny Ryall Cup: First, L. F. Clarke (on the second nine after a tie); second, M. J. Healy. Captain's Prize: Winner, L. F. Clarke (3 up). Cahill Trophy: First, E. Goggin; second, F. McG. Loughnane, M. O'Regan, M. J. Smith, and H. J. Taggart (tied); third, F. McConnell. Mannix Cup (for four best medal rounds): First, M. J. Smyth; second, H. J. Taggart; third, J. G. H. McNabb.

A Disclaimer

Mr. G. BANKOFF (London, W.1) writes: It would oblige me greatly if you would publish a statement disclaiming any knowledge or responsibility on my part for the article published on the front page of the *Sunday Referee* of October 20th, entitled "Brilliant Young Surgeon's Discovery," etc., emphasizing the facts that no information, including the photograph, was supplied by me or anyone in my employ, and that the writer of the article is quite unknown to me. Further, that I have never claimed to be the discoverer of this particular operative treatment, that my method of local anaesthesia published in the *Lancet* has no direct connexion with thyroidectomy, and must not be confused with the original "twilight sleep," and that the personal details given are obviously incorrect.

Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd. (136, Gower Street, London, W.C.1) ask us to state that they can supply copies of the *Annual Review of Biochemistry*, a notice of which appeared in our issue of October 19th (p. 726).

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, and 59 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 56 and 57.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 192.