

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### *Haematuria following Abdominal Strain?*

Dr. M. BRADFORD (Ebbw Vale) writes: Is it possible to develop a haematuria as a result of a sudden contraction of the abdominal muscles (presumably causing compression of the kidney) in a healthy subject? The patient, a steel-worker in the twenties, is lean, muscular, and narrow chested. He is engaged in pulling metal sheets out of a furnace with a long pair of tongs. When some of the sheets slipped he suddenly jerked himself forwards. This caused slight abdominal pain, but he went on working. An hour later he passed urine intimately mixed with blood. This cleared up in a few days with rest. He has had no urinary symptoms before or since.

#### *Pruritus Vulvae et Ani*

Dr. R. D. MOYLE (Eastbourne) writes in reply to "Perplexed" (*Journal*, November 23rd, p. 1029): Although the urine is normal the large area involved makes one think of diabetes and whether it would not be worth while having the blood sugar determinations done. Failing this, it has been my practice for some time to give all such cases injections of ovarian hormone. I would suggest oestroform, one ampoule twice weekly: begin with the 1,000-unit ampoule and give injections for three to four weeks, and if necessary change over to the 10,000-unit ampoule. It should not be given during menstruation. Locally, other anti-pruritics having failed, percaïne ointment is often temporarily successful.

"J. P. B." writes: One of the most soothing and healing lotions I know of is 1 oz. of liq. plumbi subacet. fort. in 6 oz. of new milk. This is an old friend of mine, and better than liq. plumbi subacet. fort. mixed with egg albumen water. Ung. glyc. plumbi subacet. is good at times. Internally pot. citrate often does good also, and 1 grain of parathyroid gland with 5 grains of calcium lactate might be tried once a day in tablet form.

#### *Oxaluria*

Dr. ALISTAIR FRENCH (Greenford, Middlesex) writes: I suppose "A. B. C." (November 23rd, p. 1029) is quite sure that his patient's symptoms are definitely due to the passage of oxalate crystals. If so the following treatment should benefit: *Diet*.—Avoid chocolate, rhubarb, spinach, tomatoes, asparagus, and gelatin; increase meat in the diet, as it increases the acidity of the urine. *General*.—Remedy any tendency to hypochlorhydria; give a calomel purge followed by mag. sulph. once a week; and order plenty of fluids, including Contrexville water for its acid carbonates.

#### *"Black Tongue"*

"R. M." writes in reply to "G. T. B." (November 23rd, p. 1029): The best article of recent years on this subject appeared in the *B.M.J.* of April 18th, 1931, by Gleave and Hallam, entitled "Black Hairy Tongue." In the case reported a cryptococcus was found. The condition cleared

up readily with a liq. potass. mouth wash. In one case under my care recently a monilia-like fungus was present not only in the "hairy" covering of the tongue, but also in the muscle, but no mycelia could be seen. It was probably a cryptococcus. The mouth wash failed with this patient. He was then given a prescription containing liq. arsenicalis, tinct. ipecac. and glycerin aa 1 drachm in aqua menth. pip. to the ounce, to be painted on t.i.d. The response was satisfactory. An American writer has reported treating a case with 50 per cent. trichloroacetic acid. The tongue was first dried and then the acid applied with a cotton swab until the surface turned a greyish-white. It is stated that one application is usually enough, but it may require two or even three.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### *Ilford Radiographic Department*

A radiographic department of Ilford Limited has been opened at Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, in premises of which the British Medical Association is the landlord. It has been arranged as a convenient meeting-place for those interested in radiography and radiology generally, and comprises a completely equipped x-ray department with the most modern apparatus (in installing which the firm has had the assistance of A. E. Dean and Company), a studio for clinical photography (in which use is made, among other products, of the new Dufaycolor film for recording in natural colours), model dark-rooms, a small lecture hall, and an exhibition room, filled at the moment with some striking examples of radiographic work. An official house-warming was given by the chairman of the company, Sir Ivor Philipps, on December 2nd. He said that Ilford Limited had always taken the view that its interests did not end with the manufacture and distribution of its photographic materials, but that constant collaboration with the users was highly desirable. This was especially the case with x-ray film, the standard of which depended not only on what the manufacturer could supply but on what the radiographer would demand. He hoped that the new department would enable the research and production staffs to keep abreast of the advances in radiography, and no less would afford assistance to the users of radiographic material in overcoming their difficulties and problems. An expression of appreciation from the company present, which included many well-known radiologists, was made by Dr. Duncan White, who said that while excellent tuition was available in the theory of radiography, he knew of hardly any centre in England where practical instruction in radiography could be given. He remembered having to devote many Saturdays to budding radiologists in endeavouring to allow them to make use of the apparatus at a certain hospital without interfering with the routine work. He looked forward to this department as serving as a centre where radiologists and radiographers in their search after knowledge might be instructed in practical matters and learn to avoid pitfalls. The visitors afterwards made an inspection of the rooms, and especially admired the furnishing and decoration whereby the commercialism of the business office and the barrenness of the hospital department are alike avoided. The department is to be staffed by experts under the charge of Miss K. C. Clark, the president of the Society of Radiographers.

#### *Old Medical Portraits*

Messrs. Suckling and Co., book and print sellers (13, Garrick Street, Covent Garden, W.C.2) have sent us a copy of their catalogue of portraits of medical men, chemists, anatomists, physiologists, natural philosophers, etc., selected from a large stock of old engraved portraits.

#### *Corrigenda*

The end of the sentence in lines four and five of the second paragraph in column one on page 1051 of our last issue should read "... or even commonly associated with symptoms of hyperthyroidism." At page 1072 in the same number (Mr. Bertwistle's letter) the second and third lines from the bottom of the second column were transposed. The printer's devil had a busy day here last week.

#### *Vacancies*

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 73 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 71 and 72.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 256.