

other two partners would be held to be "annual payments" and consequently income of the receiving partners. They would rank as "investment income" in their hands, and as they are not ultimately "C.'s" income he could obtain no relief in respect of such portions of his share of the profits as he was bound to pass on under the arrangement.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Medical Register: Office Edition

Mr. MICHAEL HESELTINE (Registrar of the General Medical Council) informs us that orders for the office edition of the *Medical Register*, 1936, published by the Council at the special price of 10s. a copy, post free, must be received, with a remittance, at the office of the Council, 44, Hallam Street, Portland Place, London, W.1, not later than December 31st, 1935. The office edition differs from the ordinary edition of the *Register* to the extent that it does not contain reprints of the Medical and Dentists Acts and other preliminary matter, and is printed on less expensive paper and bound in boards. It includes, however, the same entries relating to registered medical practitioners as are included in the ordinary edition, and is therefore equally serviceable to public authorities and others who find it necessary to ascertain whether particular persons are registered medical practitioners or not. The Council also prepares monthly lists of names added to, and removed from, the *Register*, and particulars of the terms and conditions upon which copies of these lists may be made available can be obtained on application to the office of the Council.

Contraceptive Technique

Dr. E. FISHER (London, S.W.13) writes: It is interesting to note that in the review (*Journal*, November 9th) of a recent book on contraceptive technique it is remarked: "Writers on this subject . . . can in fact only with difficulty say anything to be distinguished in form and in substance from what others have already said again and again." But something should be added to this—namely, that the foundations of present-day contraceptive technique were laid by Dr. Marie Stopes in *Wise Parenthood* in 1918 and in *Contraception* in 1923. All books on birth control post-dating these works are, as your reviewer says, treading in the same footsteps, but if those who now read these books would read those published before 1918 they would see what landmarks in medical history her books were and still are, though most present-day writers fail to acknowledge their indebtedness to her.

Death Rates and Environment

Dr. E. G. L. BYWATERS writes: In your issue of December 7th there is an editorial on an article in the *New Statesman* of November 23rd which was concerned to point out that the standardized death rate for the depressed areas is a lot higher than the general S.D.R. I feel as a member of the B.M.A. that it is against our best interests to indulge in such partial criticism and by such patronizing and gratuitous condescension to antagonize a universally respected contemporary. Because "statistical truth was revealed to Somerset House more than a century ago," is it honestly to be inferred that this "has apparently escaped our contemporary's eye," and that "the *New Statesman* has discovered that age is a factor of mortality"? Such language and such reasoning befits better the tendentious pages of the Press-Barons than a reputable technical journal such as ours. What have the 1934 figures to do with previous higher or lower figures? Because, say, maternal mortality figures have improved since 1850, shall we cease to draw attention to the fact that they are still bad? Because medical journalism has improved since it published personal criticism of eminent physicians shall we cease to deplore any lapses that may occur to-day? The *B.M.J.* should have more use for editorial space than to devote it to such petty complacency.

Medical Treatment for Septic States

Dr. R. LARKIN (London, S.E.1) writes: The recent discussion in the correspondence columns of the *Journal* on the treatment of puerperal streptococcal septicaemia indicates divided opinion as to the help to be expected from the use of anti-streptococcal serum. In a case of ordinary whitlow, with influenza at the same time, I found that the quinine and potassium citrate mixture I use as a routine treatment for

the influenza had a modifying influence on the progress of the whitlow, which I had incised. Seeing that I had found something to combat sepsis, and looking round for some improvement, it occurred to me to try and combine a salicylate derivative, salicin, with the quinine mixture. The result has never yet disappointed me in any case of sepsis, *providing free drainage of pus has been provided for*. The last case in which I tried it successfully was one of puerperal fever following severe flooding, with uterine fibroids. Surgical opinion was against hysterectomy, there being septic metritis, with rigors, collapse, and high temperature. After three days the temperature settled down, although profuse discharge was still coming away. The patient eventually got well, and some months later a surgeon successfully removed the fibroids. I have had a similar experience with this treatment in septic miscarriages and in septicaemia with poisoned wounds, or from any septic focus, and should advise a trial of it in any septic state. The prescription I find most useful is:

R	Quinine sulph.	...	...	...	...	gr. xij
	Acid. nit. hyd. dil.	...	...	...	...	m xij
	Potass. cit.	...	...	...	...	gr. xxj
	Tr. camph. co.	...	...	...	...	m xx
	Tr. scillae	...	...	...	...	m iij
	Salicin	...	...	...	...	gr. xij
	Aq. chlorof.	...	...	...	...	3 ij
	Aq.	...	...	...	...	ad 3 vi

Sig. 3 ss four-hourly, p.c.

In the puerperal case I added 10 minims of succus taraxaci and a half grain of potassium iodide per dose. If in an ordinary way the above mixture is found pharmaceutically inelegant, a variation of it is as follows:

R	Quinine sulph.	...	...	...	...	gr. vj
	Acid. phos. dil.	...	...	...	...	m vj
	Liq. cocci	...	...	...	...	m x
	Potass. cit.	...	...	...	...	gr. xxj
	Liq. strych. hyd.	...	...	...	...	m xx
	Salicin	...	...	...	...	gr. xij
	Tr. scillae	...	...	...	...	m xxj
	Aq. chlorof.	...	...	...	...	3 ij
	Aq.	...	...	...	...	ad 3 vj

Sig. 3 ss four-hourly, p.c.

With both prescriptions I find aspirin, 2½ to 5 grains, a useful adjunct.

Emil Behnke

Miss K. EMIL-BEHNKE (39, Earl's Court Square, S.W.) writes: I am writing a life of my parents, Emil and Kate Behnke, whose research into vocal physiology and subsequent work in the scientific training of the voice, and the treatment of defects of speech, met with such cordial appreciation from members of the medical profession, amongst whom they counted so many warm friends. If any of these should have in their possession letters or information which they would allow me to incorporate in the biography I should be grateful for the loan of them. Every care would be taken of them and they would be returned in due course to the owners.

Sutures on Eyeless Needles

The special sterile sutures on 11/16 circle atraumatic eyeless needles with flattened shanks, referred to last week by Mr. Denis Browne in "An Orthopaedic Operation for Cleft Palate" (p. 1093), were manufactured in the London Laboratories of Armour and Company, Ltd., St. Martins-le-Grand, E.C.1. They are designed primarily for use in a needle-holder in cramped abdominal operations, but are also large enough to be held comfortably in the fingers.

Diaries and Calendars

Messrs. John Walker and Co., Ltd. (Farringdon House, Warwick Lane, E.C.4), have sent us an attractive boxful of diaries (both tablet and pocket varieties), calendars, and appointment books for 1936. The outfit of a busy medical man is not complete without a diary of some kind, and John Walker's selection should appeal to a wide range of tastes. The prices vary from 1s. upwards.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 51, 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 276.