

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Palliative for Hay Fever

"A. V. S." writes: As a sufferer from hay fever for many years I found great relief last year and this year from the use of "salfoin" (Pickups, Ltd.). This preparation is an analgesic salve for intranasal application, and is stated to contain para-amino-benzoic ethyl ester and methyl-amino-ethanol catechol with paraffin and adeps lanae. By its use first thing in the morning and during the day before exposure to outdoor conditions likely to cause an attack of hay fever, it has been possible without discomfort to engage in activities that formerly brought on acute attacks—for example, prolonged work in the garden, walks through meadows and drives in the country, garden parties, picnics, and the like. The salve not only prevents or diminishes the severity of the sneezing attacks, but also diminishes rhinorrhoea and nasal and conjunctival irritation.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Malaria Transmission

Dr. J. C. RYAN (late W. African Medical Staff) writes: In the *Journal* of June 20th (p. 1267) Sir Malcolm Watson is reported as having stated in his lecture on tropical diseases research, while dealing with the parasites of filaria and malaria: "But although the two parasites differed in so many ways certain facts in the life-history suggested to Manson's acute mind that both made the escape from their human host by being drawn out of the blood and living for a period and developing in a blood-sucking insect"; and "Thanks to the brilliant deductions of Manson and the patient experiment of Ross the mode of infection of malaria became clear." I will make the necessary correction by quoting from both Sir Patrick Manson and Sir Ronald Ross. On page 17 in Manson's *Tropical Diseases*, published in the year 1898, he states: "Man, I conjecture, may become infected by drinking water contaminated by the mosquito, or, and much more frequently, by inhaling the dust of mud of dried-up mosquito-haunted pools, or in some similar manner." Sir Ronald Ross, in *Memoirs*, writes: "It has been also said that he [Manson] selected me to verify his theory. Quite untrue: I selected myself, and no one else really touched the work till I had done it."

Specific Treatment for Acute Sepsis

Dr. JOHN T. SIMPSON writes from Folkestone: Dr. W. M. Crofton's letter in the *Journal* of July 4th (p. 56) is worthy of comment. As an obstetric surgeon I adopted this line of treatment (in London) for puerperal sepsis. The results were frequently miraculous, and easily out-distanced any

other line of treatment adopted in a practice extending over twenty years. Were it adopted more extensively I have no doubt that the maternal mortality rate would be greatly reduced. If Dr. Leonard Colebrook's suggestion that bacteriological laboratories should be established throughout the country were only acted upon promptly "carriers" could be detected and autogenous antigens made available to those who reside far distant from the well-equipped large cities. As one who, some years ago, was fortunate enough to have been successfully treated by Dr. Crofton by active immunization for encephalitis lethargica, I am further entitled to bear testimony to a treatment which would appear to be too long neglected for acute conditions. Is it, Sir, too much to ask for the establishment of laboratories as suggested, so that this method of treatment may be available to all?

Anti-snake-bite Serum

In view of the increase in the number of adders in certain regions, especially Epping Forest, the New Forest, and the West Coast of Scotland, and of the difficulty experienced in dealing promptly with cases of snake-bite, Messrs. Boots announce that stocks of the Pasteur Institute anti-venom serum are now held available at the following branches in England and Scotland: London (Piccadilly Circus and 23, Aldgate High Street); Edinburgh (48, Shandwick Place); Oban (70, George Street); Bournemouth (33, Old Christchurch Road); Nottingham (10, Wheeler Gate).

Medical Art Exhibition

The second annual exhibition of the Medical Art Society at the house of the Royal Society of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street) with Sir Leonard Hill as president, shows once more the versatility of so many medical men. Though the general standard of work is very high for an amateur art society that of Sir Harold Gillies stands out from the rest, "River Eio and Fjord" being his best work. "Battersea Power Station" and other paintings by H. Elliott Blake are also very good. "Evening at the Fair" and "Motorists attacking a Belisha Beacon" are vigorous and lively paintings in black-and-white by Rupert Hallam. H. B. Maitland also shows some good work, including "Canal, Manchester." Among many other exhibits deserving mention are "Flower Piece" by Emanuel Mil'ner; "In the Carpathians," "Sunshine and Cloud in the Tyrol" by T. H. Somervell; "Sunrise in Scotland" by T. Anwyl Davies; "Sitting Hen" by Sir Leonard Hill; "Paddy Bridge" by C. M. Hinds Howell; "Upper Basildon" by Sir Squire Sprigge; "Hassan's House," "The Foundation to Mary Thom" by John Hay; "Farm Yard" by Charles Pannett; "Middlesex Hospital Nurses' Home" by S. Hales. The exhibition will remain open each day between 2 and 6 p.m., until Tuesday, July 14th (Saturday excepted).

Medical Golf

The Scottish Medical Golfing Society held its summer meeting at Princes' Golf Club, Sandwich, on June 27th and 28th. The following are the results of the various competitions: *Singles v. Bogey*: (1) J. Benson Young (7), 3 up; (2) D. J. MacMyn (16), 1 down. *Singles v. Medal*: (1) J. Benson Young (7), 73; (2) D. J. MacMyn (16) and E. F. S. Gordon (7), 76. An *Eclectic Competition* was then held: (1) D. J. MacMyn (16), 63; (2) J. Benson Young (7), 66. *Four Ball v. Bogey*: (1) W. S. Maclay (8) and B. Shires (11), 8 up; (2) D. J. MacMyn (16) and E. L. Bartleman (12), 6 up.

Corrigendum

In Dr. C. W. Healey's letter on histidine treatment of peptic ulcer on page 47 of last week's issue a compositor's mistake in taking out a wrong line rendered the context meaningless. From the third line of paragraph three the wording should read: "After five hours a fleck of barium was seen high up in the jejunum, indicating the presence of an ulcer." Histidine hydrochloride (B.D.H.) was given for twenty-five consecutive days, and after the third injection the patient had no further symptoms."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 52 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 31.