

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Lemon Juice in Mycotic Infections

Dr. L. G. AUSTIN (Wellington, New Zealand) writes: In your issue of February 29th (p. 404) Dr. John C. Belisario stressed the claims of lemon juice as a cure for mycotic skin infections. For symptoms of intense irritation, etc., I tried the dabbing on of lemon juice in a case of pruritus vulva with immediate relief and cure. Previously I had relieved the same case with weekly injections of 1 per cent. novocain solution, eight injections of 1 c.cm. each week for four to six weeks. The lemon juice treatment was certainly easier though less lucrative. The next case was a varicose ulcer with a weeping eczema. I had tried several elastoplast bandages, quinine urethane injections, calamine lotion, scarlet red ointment, and other preparations. In desperation I recommended applications of lemon juice, and within a few days the eczematous condition dried up and the ulcer healed; the same intense itching had been present in this case. Now I wonder whether lemon juice would clear up eczema of the ear lobes, leucorrhoea, and other vaginal lesions, and whether the mycotic infection which is common to the webbing of the toes is spread by the patient's fingers to other parts of the body?

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Fate of a Snake

Brigadier-General F. E. BURNHAM (Halcyon Springs, B.C.) writes: In my bag of reminiscences of the practice of medicine in many lands I find a number of interesting cases. Quite the most interesting and instructive is that of Mrs. J.—the intelligent wife of a prosperous farmer. Mrs. J. came to our office in Southern Manitoba complaining of abdominal pain. For this, at different times, we removed the appendix, ovaries, and curetted the uterus. It was before the theory of focal sepsis held the stage, otherwise we would probably also have removed teeth, tonsils, and gall-bladder. Having removed all the organs with which the patient could dispense, and without improvement, we were fairly stumped. Except for the surgical adventures to which the patient was subjected, we shall allow the patient to relate the history of the case in her own words:

Kaleida, January 6th, 1936.

"Twenty-seven years ago, on a hot summer day, I went with a party of girls to pick berries in a deep ravine. It had been a dry season, and the creek running only in places. The day was very hot, and we were all thirsty. There was nothing to drink out of—only lie on our stomach. I picked a place beside a big rock. When I had my head in the right position a girl put her foot on me and pushed me into the water. I swallowed everything I came to, and think I must have swallowed a small snake. I tried many times

after, and found one can easily swallow a small pliable thing. I did not have any trouble to speak of until winter. I found I had begun to be troubled with constipation, and nothing seemed to help much. As winter approached began to have bloating feeling and very miserable. If I stood up, walked around, or lay flat was not so bad. Bending down or sitting was misery. In January was in bed a long time. Doctor thought it was ovary trouble, and perhaps another operation. I told him I had another heart. He smiled, and said 'Where?' I showed him right side of abdomen. It beat and beat—you could see it. He said that was strange and must be a muscle. I often wondered since if it was tail of snake. One Saturday in May I really thought I would die I was so sick, and vomited so badly. Following Monday I passed a snake, badly decomposed. The head was firm with two eyes, as large as my thumb. It was colourless, and eighteen inches long. Immediately all pain and discomfort left me and have never had a return, and am in perfect health ever since. Weigh 140 lb. and do all my own work, and we farm 480 acres. We took the specimen to Dr. —. It nearly filled a pint sealer. Dr. — put it in a kidney dish, and in examining it tore it to pieces. I was really vexed, as I planned on keeping it."

By the misdirected zeal of a young practitioner the pathological museum has been deprived of an interesting exhibit.

The School as a Nursery.

The care and training of children under 5 years of age is attracting a great deal of attention. The Board of Education in a recent circular stated that "in normal circumstances children under 5 years of age benefit more from being in their home surroundings, under parental care, than in school," but that there are "many young children whose mothers, through no fault of their own, are unable to give them at home the care and attention they need," and that the provision of nursery schools, or nursery classes attached to elementary schools, was desirable to meet the needs of such children. Local education authorities were accordingly asked to survey their areas from this point of view and to consider what new provision was required. The Board has now prepared an illustrated pamphlet—"Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes" (H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. 6d.)—which, by surveying present practice, particularly with regard to nursery classes, offers a clearly written guide to local education authorities on the provision or adaptation of premises and to teachers on the practice and purpose of nursery training. Ten pages are devoted to ways in which premises, sometimes forbidding, may be adapted to serve the needs of young children between 3 and 5 years of age. There is no elaboration of educational theory in academic terms, but a straightforward account of what young children are like and what they enjoy; and of how their daily needs and interests can be met in such a way that necessary domestic activity and play become almost inseparable, and, together with rest, constitute the major part of the child's daily life, spent under conditions which ensure both care and training.

Mistaken Identity

The issue of the *Münchener medizinische Wochenschrift* for July 31st contains the following remarkable statement: "The celebrated English surgeon Moynihan, who has the title of Lord Dawson of Penn, has obtained the rank of a Viscount."

Jewellery Found at Annual Meeting

Dr. F. G. HOBSON (Oxford), writes: The Bursar of St. Peter's Hall, Oxford, informs me that two pieces of jewellery have been found in the college, and suggests that they may have been dropped by a lady accompanying a member to the Annual Meeting. The Bursar's description of them is as follows: (1) round silver filigree brooch set with brilliants; one large oval brilliant in the centre, surrounded by five silver filigree daisies. (2) Earring with screw clasp for ear; looks like silver globe; possibly glass coated with silver.

Corrigendum

In the article by Dr. Leyton (August 1st, p. 238) the word "hypotonic" appeared, through a misprint, instead of "hypertonic," in relation to treatment by saline baths.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 38, 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 123.