

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Sweating in the Course of Treatment with Thyroid

"LEVEL" writes: A female patient, aged 84, suffering from myxoedema, has been having 1/2-grain thyroid tablets daily for over three years; she complains of profuse sweats and much rheumatic pain in the lower limbs. Is the sweating due to the thyroid, and is such pain usual in myxoedema?

Gold Salt Injections

"C. H. B." asks for references to any articles comparing the effects of gold salts injected intravenously and gold salts injected intramuscularly. From my own experience (he writes) there is an immense difference, but it may be exceptional.

** Drs. Hartfall and Garland, in "Further Observations on the Gold Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis" (*Lancet*, June 27th, 1936), state in their summary and conclusions: "There is no notable difference in the curative effects or toxicity between intravenous and intramuscular methods of administration."

Cramp in the Legs

"L. P. T." writes in reply to "W." (October 3rd, p. 698): I have recently treated a case of severe nocturnal cramp in the legs in an old lady of 72, who had suffered from it with increasing frequency for years, by the simple device of putting an upright board double the depth of the mattress in between the sheets at the foot of the bed, thus taking the main weight of the bedding off the feet without reducing the warmth. She has had no attacks at night for some months now.

Income Tax

Private Use of Car

"C. S." inquires: "What is the usual percentage deduction made in the case of an urban-rural practice as representing the private use of a car, and how is this affected if the practitioner has two cars?"

** The basis should be the ratio of the private to the total mileage, but that is often a matter of guesswork. We may, however, say that 10 per cent. is not uncommon, though larger percentages are sometimes justifiable. Such a percentage usually assumes that when the car is used privately for a substantial period—for example, on holiday—running expenses are not charged to the professional account. That is sometimes a useful point in discussion with the inspector of taxes. The fact that two cars are kept would not affect the principle, but might indicate a higher ratio of private use.

"Unearned" Income—Allowances

"J." inquires what tax is payable by a married man over 65 years of age on a total income of £350 entirely from dividends.

** The allowances due for 1936-7 are: "personal" £180, "age relief" (one-fifth of £350 =) £70, and tax is therefore payable on £350 - £250 = £100 at 1s. 7d. in the £—that is, £7 18s. 4d. It is assumed that either "J." or his wife was 65 years of age on April 5th, 1936. It may be advisable to point out that the method of computing the amount of tax to be returned by the Revenue Authorities as the difference between £7 18s. 4d. and the tax deducted from dividends may be misleading, because Dominion income tax relief, or the inclusion of pre-1936-7 income, may reduce the amount of tax actually deducted.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

The Grenfell Calendar

All those who begin to search at this time of the year for a calendar which, while being also an engagement diary, will be an adornment to any room, will have cause once more to be grateful to the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland. The Grenfell Calendar for 1937 has already appeared, and is even more attractive than its predecessors. On each of the fifty-three pages is a reproduction of a photograph of life in Labrador, and a quotation from the writings of Sir Wilfred Grenfell. The calendar, which is modestly priced at 3s. 6d. (4s. post free), is obtainable from the offices of the Association, 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1, and is sold for the benefit of Sir Wilfred Grenfell's work in Labrador.

Medical Golf

The seventh autumn meeting of the Sussex Medical and Dental Golfing Society was held on the links of the South-down Golf Club on September 25th, when thirty-four members competed. The captain's prize, presented by Dr. A. E. Kerr, was won by Mr. Scott Page. The afternoon 4-ball foursome against bogey resulted in the following tying at 3 down: Drs. McWhirter and Hosford, McAleenan, jun., and Devlin, Muir Smith and Densham.

A week-end meeting of the London Irish Medical Golfing Society was held at Littlestone on October 4th and 5th, with the following results. Cahill Trophy: S. C. Morrow (13) 71 + 71 = 142. Captain's Prize: S. C. Morrow 3 up (two rounds). President's Prize (scratch): J. A. Flaherty + 1 = 72. Veteran's Prize: J. F. O'Malley (10) 74. Canny Ryall Cup: J. F. Healy (3) 71. Lett Cup: M. J. Smyth and Lieut.-General Sir James Hartigan 1 up. O'Malley Cup: R. F. Jones (6) 1 up. Mannix Cup: J. Nunan (6) 301 (four rounds).

London School of Dietetics

Miss M. MARTIN LEAKE wishes it to be known that the London School of Dietetics, Ridgmount Street, W.C.1, has no connexion with the London College of Dietetics Ltd., mentioned in Lord Horder's disclaimer on page 656 of our issue of September 26th.

Corrigendum

Dr. N. S. FINZI asks us to correct an unfortunate misprint in the *Journal* of August 8th (page 303, column 2). In the brief report of his remarks at Oxford on x-ray therapy in deep-seated malignancy the third sentence should have begun "Bronchial carcinoma gave rise to metastases *very early*" (not very rarely, as printed); and Dr. Finzi supplemented this by saying that *all* his cases had had metastases.

The address of the University Appointments Board has now been changed from 46, Russell Square to "Appointments Board, University of London, W.C.1." The telephone numbers remain unchanged.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, and 65 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 62 and 63.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 203.