

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

A Page Turner

Dr. F. W. BURTON-FANNING (Norwich) writes: "G. H." asks in the *Journal* of October 3rd if there is such a thing as an electric page turner. During the war the late Sir Arthur Shipley had numbers of wounded men in the Master's Lodge, Christ's College, Cambridge. Amongst other contrivances for their help he devised an effective instrument, which was held in the mouth, for turning the pages of a book. Mrs. Hutchinson, Master's Lodge, Pembroke College, Cambridge, could probably supply further information.

Suppression of Salivary Secretion

Mr. ARCHIBALD SMITH (Jersey) writes: In your issue of October 3rd "X. Y. Z." asks for suggestions for the treatment of a case of dry mouth. May I suggest the administration of tr. jaborandi, 10 to 15 minims t.i.d., combined with some simple stomachic mixture.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Problems of Population

Dr. B. DUNLOP (Putney) writes: You say that the countries of high birth rate are "almost" all countries with high death rates. I submit that every country of high birth rate has an excessive mortality. That this must be so in any long-settled country was the essence of Malthus's doctrine. As to the fear that the forthcoming decline of population will be dangerously prolonged, I remain confident that when the wave of excessive birth control reaches the poorest classes there will soon begin a wave of adequate parenthood in the other classes; paradoxical as it may seem, my chief remedy for the quantity and quality problems of population is the legalization of abortion for any woman who has had two confinements. I prophesy that before long there will be a peaceful and most profitable alliance of all the low-birth-rate countries of Europe, and also that when the Asiatics begin to reduce their wastefully high fertility there will come a prolonged boom in world trade.

Medical Aspects of the Italo-Abyssinian Campaign

In an address to the Italian Institute of Public Health on July 31st, reported in *Il Policlinico* of August 24th, Sir Aldo Castellani gave an interesting account of the medical aspects of the Italo-Abyssinian campaign. There were 1,241 cases of malaria, with twenty-three deaths, among a total of half a million men. Prophylaxis consisted in every soldier taking quinine tablets three times daily. Dysentery, which

has also always been one of the scourges of war, was exclusively of the amoebic variety, and was responsible for 453 cases, but only one of them proved fatal. There were 458 cases of enteric fever with 161 deaths. No case of typhus fever occurred in the Italian troops, although this disease was rife among the Abyssinians, who also suffered considerably from relapsing fever. One case of small-pox was reported in the Italian Army, whereas there were numerous cases in the Abyssinian Army and civil population. Thirty Italians had heat stroke, with seven deaths; there was only one case of beri-beri and none of scurvy. According to reports received from the Red Cross, there were 30,000 cases of scurvy among the Abyssinian forces; in the Italian Army each soldier was given a lemon every other day. The general health of the Italian troops during the war was excellent. During the seven-months campaign there were only 599 deaths from disease, of which twenty-two were among the officers and 577 among the men; while the deaths from wounds were nearly double, numbering 1,099, of which 119 were among the officers and 980 among the men.

The Menstrual Cycle and Pregnancy

Mrs. B. E. WALTERS STALLARD, M.D. (Hereford), writes: In the issue of your *Epitome* (October 10th, para. 297) there is a note on the relation between short menstrual cycles and pregnancy. In 1903 I attended a medical woman in her first confinement. The child was not born until six weeks after the time as estimated by the last menstrual period, and was apparently full term. The patient's menstrual cycle was six weeks. She said ruefully that she should never again scold a woman for not knowing when a child was expected.

Rapid Addition

Dr. F. A. BELAM (M.O.H., Guildford) sends the original of the following letter received at one of the local schools at which a medical inspection was being held. He suggests it might be headed "mass production."

"Please find enclosed Patricia Mary's medical form I regret she will be unable to appear also myself having been compelled to send her to her Grannies owing to an hourly increase in the family."

Yours truly,

Medical Golf

A meeting of the Medical Golfing Society was held on the links at Prince's, Sandwich, on October 10th and 11th, in fine weather, and the course was in excellent order. About sixty members stayed at the Granville Hotel, Ramsgate, and were well looked after. The results of the competitions were as follows. Singles *v.* Bogey: J. L. Livingstone (3 up); Michael Smyth (2 up). Foursomes *v.* Bogey: T. P. Kolesar and G. K. Cooper (all square); G. Armitage and Carron Brown (1 down). Canny Ryall Cup: G. Armitage and Michael Smyth (tied at 72). Milsom Rees Aggregate Cup: H. W. Allott (1 down).

Gas Equipment for Laboratories

The British Commercial Gas Association's latest publication, "Modern Gas Equipment for Laboratories," describes the latest equipment of all kinds—from Bunsen burners to metallurgical furnaces, from incinerators to refrigerators, and from water heaters to incubators. Copies may be obtained free on request from the British Commercial Gas Association, Gas Industries House, 1, Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner, S.W.1.

Corrigendum

A reporting error occurred in the account of the discussion on "Carbon Dioxide Absorption from Anaesthetic Atmospheres" which appeared in our issue of October 10th (p. 735). The remarks made by Dr. T. A. B. Harris, anaesthetist to Guy's Hospital and St. Peter's Hospital, were incorrectly attributed to Dr. I. E. Harries.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, and 63 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 60 and 61.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 211.