

at the tip of the thumb. I should be glad if any of your readers would explain this phenomenon, and also whether it has occurred in other cases similarly treated. There was no evidence of infiltration round about the vein.

Staining for Reticulocytes

"J. B. L." inquires if any reader would be good enough to describe a simple and effective method of demonstrating reticulocytes in blood by staining with brilliant cresyl-blue in normal saline when access to a laboratory is not available.

Onychopathy

Dr. EDWIN F. D. BAKER writes: I would be grateful for the assistance of your readers in the diagnosis and treatment of a case of a small girl, aged 4 years, who at the age of 18 months developed infantile eczema. This soon cleared up with treatment, but left the nails of both hands affected. They became pitted, distorted, and brittle—in fact, very unsightly. The toe nails remained unaffected and, strangely enough, the nail of the right thumb, which she is in the habit of sucking. All treatment and investigations at several London skin clinics have so far been negative.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

"Electrotherapy and its Future"

Mr. J. W. KOLBERT, director of Hanovia Ltd., writes: May one of the "instrument makers" comment on one aspect of Dr. Turrell's paper published in your issue of November 21st? In it he states that since the war makers of equipment, relying mainly on sales of their wares to technical assistants, "devote any inventive genius which they may possess to improvement in the chromium plating or bakelite finish of their apparatus." His context infers that they have ceased looking to medical men for advice on the development of their instruments, and now produce only repetition copies of early apparatus with superficial refinements but lacking in technical development. May I let the record of one company speak for itself? During six years past we have achieved (a) the development of electronic discharge tubes of self-starting type, which operate in any position, and have 90 per cent. greater efficiency than earlier types; (b) the production of three new lamps for focal actinotherapy alone; (c) the rheostat-control output stabilizer which at last gave to the practitioner mercury arc lamps needing no periodical adjustments in dosage standards; (d) much other work, including new designs in reflectors which give better distribution of radiation, and new shapes in quartz applicators, made to specialists' suggestions, which have enabled fresh conditions to be effectively treated. We could not have progressed thus far without close co-operation with the medical profession. We believe that better equipment means better therapy, and that better therapy in turn demands better equipment. And I have no doubt that other firms, specializing in other branches of electrotherapy, can produce equal records of technical achievement. It is gratifying to add that we do not "rely on the sales of our wares to technical assistants," but are finding our users almost entirely among registered medical practitioners.

Recreative Physical Training

The first annual report of the Central Council of Recreative Physical Training has now been issued. The aim of the council is to assist in the improvement of the health, physical and mental, of the community by developing physical activities of all types, by ensuring that the fullest possible use is made of existing facilities, and by instituting provision of facilities in districts where these are lacking. The sponsors of the Central Council were the Ling Association of Teachers of Swedish Gymnastics and the National Association of Organizers of Physical Education; both realized the need of a central organization to establish and carry out a co-ordinated programme for the improvement of the health of the community. A preliminary survey proved that the efforts of voluntary organizations and local authorities were hampered by shortage of leaders and lack of facilities. The Central Council has established a close liaison with the National Playing Fields Association, with voluntary organizations, both at headquarters and in the provinces, and with the education authorities. The report quotes the Physical Education Committee of the British Medical Association, which suggested that voluntary organizations should be encouraged to make use of the Central Council. Much useful work has already been accomplished. Training courses have been arranged for men and women leaders, and a national register of leaders has been compiled, covering the whole field of physical recreation. Representatives of the council have addressed meet-

ings in many parts of the country, much advisory work has been carried out, and a number of leaflets have been published. Contact has also been established with similar bodies abroad, and the Central Council was represented at the International Congress of Leisure and Recreation held at Hamburg. The report states that the council realizes that Great Britain can learn much from foreign countries in the matter of physical recreation.

Bromide Intoxication

"B. P." writes: The correspondence produced by the article on bromide poisoning (*Journal*, November 14th, p. 957) is disappointing to the general practitioner. Potassium bromide is one of the few drugs in which he has faith, and he would like to know if ill effects from its use are really common. The authors of the paper say that they are not dealing with epilepsy, but the medical officers of asylums and institutions for epileptics are the very people who ought to be able to give us the facts. In spite of the claim of some makers of phenobarbitol that it is a specific for epilepsy, many patients do better on potassium bromide, and it is still largely used. Another point: there seems to be a general impression that sodium bromide is less toxic than the potassium salt but less effective. What are the facts? I myself have taken 25 grains of sodium bromide daily for nine years to prevent attacks of a severe form of migraine and an occasional attack of *petit mal*. No ill effects have been observed except that its use takes the edge off life in more senses than one. Few of us will derive much help from Dr. Robertson's letter (*Journal*, December 5th, p. 1168).

Hospital Flag Days in London

Seventy-seven voluntary hospitals, which in the past have raised about £30,000 a year by means of street collections or "flag days" in London, have agreed, at the suggestion of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, to combine their appeals for 1937. The Commissioner of Police has fixed the week preceding the Coronation—May 2nd to 8th—as "hospitals week." On Tuesday, May 4th, there will be one street collection for the whole of the metropolitan boroughs, and on Saturday, May 8th, one for the outlying areas extending as far as the limits of the metropolitan police district. The central committee representative of the seventy-seven London hospitals participating, under the chairmanship of Lord Luke, is working out the details of the scheme, and headquarters have been established at 36, Kingsway, W.C.2.

Appendicitis and Cancer of the Caecum

Dr. S. CROWN (London, W.9) writes: The following is yet another case of appendicitis and carcinoma of the caecum. The late Mr. Donald Armour operated on a female patient of mine, aged 60 years, for appendicitis in 1926, and found in addition a carcinoma of the caecum; the portion of the caecum involving growth and the appendix were removed. A faecal fistula developed, but soon healed. In 1928 small intestine obstruction developed owing to bands; at operation (by the late Mr. Legg) there was no recurrence seen, and she has remained well since.

London Fever Hospital

The secretary of the London Fever Hospital, Liverpool Road, N.1, writes: Information in regard to the accommodation available at this hospital was recently circulated to members of the medical profession in the London area. There have, as a result, been so many inquiries in regard to private rooms that we shall be most grateful if you will allow us space in your columns to make it known that the fees for such accommodation here are from seven to ten guineas a week inclusive.

Diaries and Calendars

Messrs. John Walker and Co. Ltd. (Farringdon House, Warwick Lane, E.C.4) have sent us a selection of diaries and calendars for 1937. The bindings are in a variety of pleasing colours, and the prices range from 1s. to 5s. and upwards. Messrs. Walker have once again attained that high quality of production for which they are noted.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66, and 67 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 64 and 65.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 323.