

DR. E. GRAHAM LITTLE, M.P., has been appointed to represent the University of London at the tenth session of the Journées Médicales de 1930, to be held at Brussels from June 28th to July 2nd.

A POST-GRADUATE course of instruction in maternity and child welfare arranged, under the auspices of the Maternity and Child Welfare Group of the Society of Medical Officers of Health and the Fellowship of Medicine, will be given in London from June 30th to July 5th inclusive. The fee for the course (ten shillings) should be sent to the Secretary of the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

AN international medical post-graduate course, with special reference to baineology and balneotherapy, will be held in Carlsbad from September 14th to 20th. Addresses will be delivered by clinicians and scientists from various European countries and the United States of America. Further details may be obtained from the secretary of the course, Dr. Edgar Ganz, Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia.

THE National Hospital, Queen Square, announces that, beginning on July 2nd, the out-patient department will be open from 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. Under this new arrangement out-patients will be seen each afternoon except Saturday.

AT the invitation of the baths directorate of Pistany Spa, Czechoslovakia, a three weeks' tour for medical practitioners and others will be held in August and September. The itinerary includes a week-end at Oberammergau, with seats for the Passion Play; three days in Vienna, visiting various medical centres; day visits to Munich, Prague, and Linz; and a week at Pistany Spa, where fishing, golf, and tennis are available. The cost of the tour is inclusive, and substantial reductions have been arranged for the party. Further details may be obtained from the Pistany Spa Representation, 136, Regent Street, W.1.

MISS M. E. DAVIES, matron-in-chief, Ministry of Pensions Nursing Service, retired from that post on June 16th, on completing eleven years' service. Owing to reduction in the hospital work of the Ministry it has been decided that the post of matron-in-chief shall lapse. The post of principal matron will continue to be held by Miss H. G. Palin, who will discharge the necessary inspectorial functions in addition to her duties as matron of Queen Mary's (Roehampton) Hospital.

THE Council of Epsom College will shortly elect a girl to a St. Anne's Scholarship of £120 a year. Candidates must be of the age of 9 years, and not over 12 years of age on July 30th next, and must be orphan daughters of medical men who have been for not less than five years in independent practice in England or Wales. Application must be made by July 3rd, on a form to be obtained from the secretary of the College, at 49, Bedford Square, W.C.1.

AT the meeting of the Central Midwives Board for England and Wales on June 5th a letter was read from the Ministry of Health referring to a suggestion from the Board that, in view of the fact that Poor Law institutions were now under the control of local supervising authorities, the approval of training of all midwives should be identical. The reply was to the effect that the Minister did not consider there were any sufficient reasons for reconsideration of the present position. The Board agreed that all training schools, whether attached to hospitals or otherwise, should, as regards approval, be dealt with on a uniform basis. A letter was read from the clerk of the Buckinghamshire County Council informing the Board that the Council was prepared to support the Joint Committee of Associations in its opposition to any legislation involving the transference of the control of the profession of midwifery from an independent body like the Central Midwives Board to a Government Department, and any interference with the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

THE report for 1929-30 of the Birmingham Women's Welfare Centre, affiliated to the Society for the Provision of Birth Control Clinics, records a steady increase in the number of attendances since the clinic was opened in 1927, and the result of an investigation from which it was learned that about 84 per cent. of the patients attending the centre had previously experimented with contraceptive methods on their own account. The committee, in order to obtain detailed information about the value of the methods taught at the centre, has decided to follow up the early cases, starting with the first 150, and towards the expenses of this investigation it has received a grant from the Birth Control Investigation Committee.

MESSRS. H. K. LEWIS AND CO., LTD., have published charts for recording the curve in sugar tolerance examinations. Each chart has printed on it the average normal curve, and it is therefore easy to plot the results of a particular examination, and to determine at once the degree of any departure from the normal. The price of these charts ranges from twenty-five for 2s. to 1,000 for 50s.

THE forty-eighth annual dinner of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on June 12th, when the president, Dr. J. F. Halls Dally, was supported by a large and representative gathering. In his speech proposing prosperity to the society, Lord Moynihan of Leeds, P.R.C.S., took occasion to administer a genial rebuke to medical London for its provincial outlook. Nevertheless, he agreed that London, for all its backwardness, had taught undergraduates almost all it knew, and had instilled into them the principles of right conduct. Its besetting fault had been the lack of a proper post-graduate ideal and sense of responsibility towards those whom it had trained in its schools and those who came to London from other places at home and abroad. Lord Moynihan hoped, however, that when the British Post-Graduate Hospital and Medical School arose London would take its place as a great centre of medical thought and inspiration. An indispensable part of this scheme was the setting up of a hostel where graduates could get into social contact during their courses. The whole scheme rested on four pillars—a hospital, a school, a hostel, and a centre for surgical research, which he hoped might be established at Charles Darwin's home. The chairman, in replying to the toast, touched briefly on the history of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society, its debt to Charles Keetley, and its pride in the distinguished men who had received its gold medal or delivered its Cavendish Lectures. The health of the guests and kindred societies was proposed by Dr. A. Knyvett Gordon, and responded to by Sir Edward Macartney (Agent-General for Queensland), Dr. P. Montague Smith (president of the Harveian Society of London), and Major Hugh Wakefield. The chairman's health was proposed by Sir Dennis Herbert, and Dr. Halls Dally replied.

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.**

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the *British Medical Journal* alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, on receipt of proofs.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBERS of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* are MUSEUM 9361, 9362, 9363, and 9364 (internal exchange, four lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitiology Westcent, London.*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate Westcent, London.*

MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Mediscra Westcent, London.*

The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bucillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone 24361 Edinburgh).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

DISCONTINUANCE OF PEPTONE TREATMENT.

"H. A. C." writes: I have treated a patient successfully for migraine with peptone 1 grain twice daily, and should be glad of suggestions as to discontinuing the treatment, which has been maintained for six months. Should the peptone be stopped suddenly or gradually?

TRICHINOSIS.

DR. JOSEPH LLOYD (Swansea) writes: I have under my care in this district a family of five persons who have been stricken very ill—all having been in good health previously—with signs and symptoms of trichinosis. The illness started with gastrointestinal symptoms, followed by very severe oedema of the face, high fever, muscular pains, especially affecting the biceps and gastrocnemii muscles, weakness, and prostration. There is marked eosinophilia. I should be grateful for information about any similar cases existing at the moment in other parts of the country. So far it appears that the illness followed a meal of boiled ham taken a few weeks ago.

* * * In the *British Medical Journal* of April 5th, 1930 (p. 650) Drs. Herzberg and Vitenson reported a case occurring in London, and on May 10th (p. 882) Dr. Jean Murray reported an outbreak of trichinosis in a bacon factory at Bradford-on-Avon.

TREATMENT OF PRURITUS ANI.

Mr. C. D'O'LY GRANGE, F.R.C.S. (Harrogate), writes in reply to "Cerosus" (June 7th, p. 1080): I have had excellent results with the subcutaneous injection of "A.B.A." as described by W. B. Gabriel in the *British Medical Journal* of June 15th, 1929 (p. 1070). If there is much moisture I combine this with the application of calamine, either in the form of powder or in a very thick lotion.

* * Mr. Gabriel stated that "A.B.A.," prepared for him by Messrs. Allen and Hanburys, is a 3 per cent. solution of anaesthesia with benzyl alcohol 5 per cent. and ether 10 per cent. in sterilized olive oil.

Dr. FREDK. WM. ALEXANDER (Teddington) writes: About two years ago a septuagenarian medical man asked me if I could do anything for his pruritus ani, from which he had suffered for years and tried every known remedy without relief. For a period of about ten minutes I applied on the outside of the anus high-frequency electricity by means of an ordinary glass vacuum electrode kept close to the surrounding parts and moved around. From the first application the effect was striking, and an absolute cure resulted after a few treatments. Was it the ozone in this instance?

Dr. THOMAS I. MILLS (York) suggests the use at bedtime of a salve containing of menth: pip. 5 per cent. in Lassar's paste.

PROTECTION AGAINST SUNBURN AND MIDGE BITES.

PROFESSOR J. A. NIXON (Bristol) sends the following replies to questions by Dr. Ivan B. McCann and "Perplexed" in the *Journal* of June 7th (pp. 1079, 1080):

Prevention of Sunburn.—The best protecting substance is quinine, either in the form of a lotion (1 per cent.) or an ointment (5 per cent.). As it is difficult to introduce quinine into an ointment, I give a formula which I have found effective in the mountains:

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| Quinine acid hydrochloride (dissolve 1 in 9 of water) | 5 |
| Anhydrous wool fat | 40 |
| Oil of lavender | 1 |
| Soft paraffin | to 100 |

Midge Bites.—Cod-liver oil provides complete protection. I use it in combination with quinine to make a "sunburn and midge cream." This is the formula:

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| Quinine acid hydrochloride | 5 |
| Cod-liver oil | 20 |
| Anhydrous wool fat | 75 |
| Oil of lavender or geranium | q.s. |

Dr. CLAUDE WILSON (Tunbridge Wells), president of the Alpine Club, writes on the prevention of sunburn as follows: Dr. McCann will find his question answered in the *British Medical Journal* for April 10th, 1926 (p. 681), in which there are some notes that would interest him. But, for practical purposes, there are many preparations sold by the chemists at most mountaineering centres. The original and the best is the pomade Seelshaye, made and sold in collapsible tubes, at 2.50 francs per tube, by the Pharmacie Haüsser, 10, Bontg-de-Four, Geneva.

"J. F. W." has found an anti-insect preparation which is sold under the name of "No-Midge" to be very satisfactory. It is made by Adams, of 162, Higher Hillgate, Stockport, and is supplied in small collapsible tubes.

"YARRAMAN" thinks that "Perplexed" will find oil of citronella (a drop here and there on the dress, not forgetting the stockings) will keep away midges. The smell is pleasant. When camping out the (says) a cake of dry cowdung, lighted, will smoulder like touchwood, and keep away midges and mosquitos.

INCOME TAX.

Deductible Expenses.

"G. C." inquires what expenses can be deducted in computing assessable income from clinics, lectures, consulting practice, and journalism.

* * There can be no question about such expenses as professional postage and telephone costs, rent of consulting room, and professional subscriptions, which are clearly allowable. The cost of travelling from residence to consulting rooms is perhaps open to doubt. If professional work is done at home and the various earnings are so interconnected that they should be dealt with as a single entity—and there seems good ground for suggesting that that would be the correct course—we are of opinion that the travelling expenses are allowable.

Request to Produce Bank Pass Books.

"J. G." has for the past eight years employed a certified accountant to prepare his income tax returns. He has been asked to supply his bank pass books and details of his investments, sales, and purchases for some of the past years. Is this request supported by legal authority?

* * We presume that "J. G." has supplied certified copies of his professional accounts in the past; if so, the request seems quite unusual, and we suggest that "J. G." might ask the inspector of taxes to state the reason why it has been made to him. So far as the legal position is concerned, the inspector

has no legal right to enforce the request, but the Commissioners responsible for the assessment in the last resort could require the production of the pass books, etc., if they decided to do so in the course of an appeal which "J. G." might make against an assessment made on his income.

Cash Receipts Tax's.

"J. J." bought a share in a partnership at January, 1928. At the end of 1928 there was an amount of over £400 due to him for professional work, which, in many cases, was being paid off gradually in small weekly sums. The inspector of taxes has made an allowance for probable bad debts, but will not accept a computation of liability based on the cash receipts of 1928.

* * The inspector is legally correct. There is undoubtedly some hardship in having to pay tax on income before it is received, but as the law stands it is the amount of the earnings, whether received in cash or not, that determines the amount of the liability.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Dr. A. G. NEWELL (St. Leonards-on-Sea) writes: Dr. Moir's experience (*Journal*, June 7th, p. 1048) is interesting; it reminds me of one of several done under difficult conditions. I was travelling by train in Sylhet and we had arrived at a station. Immediately after the train started on its journey we heard an agonizing cry and loud shouts, and on looking out I found a native woman was lying on the rails. I shouted to the guard to stop the train. The woman had discovered this was the station she should have got out at; she had opened the door and evidently succeeded in getting to the lower step, from which she either jumped or fell. Her left foot was practically severed and hanging to the leg by a flap of skin; she had a large tear up the leg and the tibial and popliteal arteries were torn; there was much haemorrhage. I improvised a tourniquet, and took her into my compartment. I was to get out at the next station, where I had arranged for a trap to convey me to an estate about two and a half miles off. I had to put digital pressure on the femoral artery continuously till I reached my station. I then put a second improvised tourniquet and some firm bandaging on the femoral artery, and took the woman in my trap to the estate. There I arrived at dusk, and had to send ten miles for my instruments for amputation. In the early hours of the morning, in a small hut dispensary, I amputated above the knee. I had as assistants an unqualified babu doctor and a native syce. There were three candles and a small oil lamp. After a few days the patient was fit enough to be conveyed to the railway hospital at headquarters. After ten or eleven days she died. The amputation was a success, but it was found that she had an enlarged spleen, which had burst from the fall and caused secondary internal haemorrhage.

HERPES AND VARICELLA.

Dr. E. G. LEOPOLD GOFFE (Kingston-on-Thames) sends the following note: N. D., male, only child, aged 9 years, developed lobar pneumonia on October 15th, 1929. He was nursed at home by his mother, assisted by a grandmother and an aunt. N. D.'s mother, aged 46 years, developed herpes on November 1st, 1929. There was irritation of the skin, at the site of the subsequent eruption, for two days before the appearance of well-marked herpetic vesicles in the right groin and on the right tubum majus, the upper and inner part of the right thigh, the inner side of the right knee, the right trochanter, the right buttock, and over the lumbo-sacral spine. None elsewhere. N. D., who occupied the same room as his mother, developed varicella on November 12th, 1929. He had well-marked vesicles on the face, scalp, palms, tongue, trunk, and limbs. The only visitors to N. D. and his mother during their illness were adults—namely, his father, grandmother, two aunts, and two uncles, none of whom showed any signs of herpes or of varicella. These contacts knew of no one who had either herpes or varicella before, during, or after N. D.'s and his mother's illness. This association between herpes and varicella I had noticed on several occasions while I was a resident in a fever hospital. A patient in a ward would develop herpes, and a fortnight later varicella would crop up in the ward, to be followed by successive outbreaks at regular fortnightly intervals.

RAPID LABOUR IN A PRIMIPARA.

Dr. L. SCHAPERA (London, N.W.10) writes: I think the following case of rapid labour is worth recording. A primipara, aged 24, commenced labour at 8 p.m. and gave birth to a fully developed male child, weighing 6½ lb., at 11.55 p.m. I examined her at 10.55 p.m., when the os was only one fingerbreadth dilated; the membranes ruptured at 11.30 p.m.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, and 54 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locum tenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts, notified in the advertisement column appears in the *Supplement* at page 263.