

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

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—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, W.C., on receipt of proof.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Aitology, London*. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

TELEPHONE (National):—

EDITOR,
2631, Gerrard.

GENERAL SECRETARY AND MANAGER,
2630, Gerrard.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

We would request correspondents who desire to ask questions in this column not to make use of such signatures as "A Member," "A Member B.M.A.," "Enquirer," and so on. By attention to this request much confusion would be avoided. Correspondents are asked to write upon one side of the paper only.

HIBERNIAN would like to know if there are any special dangers, apart from the unpleasant smell, in living in the vicinity of gasworks.

NAVAL SURGEON would be glad of suggestions for treatment of a mild case of marginal blepharitis of one eye. Some scales form round roots of lashes accompanied by congestion; no inflammation. Silver salts have been tried, also zinc and boric ointments.

DR. INMAN'S "MYALGIA."

DR. WM. CASH REED (15, Prince's Avenue, Liverpool) desires to borrow for a few days a copy of Inman's *Myalgia*, referred to in a recent interesting paper in the JOURNAL by Dr. Keith of Driffild.

PRESCRIBING CHEMISTS.

AGGRIEVED writes: "Within the last few months in the conduct of my practice the following cases have occurred. Have I a remedy? (1) A young woman suffering from complete obstruction of the bowels is dosed with "black draught" by a chemist. Only immediate operation saved the life. (2) A man suffering from fractured skull is prescribed half a dozen 20-grain powders of potassium bromide by a chemist. Only operation saved the life. (3) Last week a man was suffering from some abdominal complaint. He has been getting medicine from the chemist, according to the chemist's prescription. On one day he received two doses of purgative medicine, and I was called in that night to find him suffering from complete obstruction and peritonitis. He died in a few hours. Am I justified in issuing a death certificate for peritonitis? Numerous cases occur in my practice, but these few will illustrate how I suffer from a prescribing chemist."

EMERGENCY WORK ON BOARD SHIP.

A CORRESPONDENT asks an opinion on the following point: He is a salaried official abroad, who, by the terms of his appointment, is entitled to private practice and a free passage on authorized occasions to and from the country in which he serves. The cost of the latter he regards as part of the emoluments of his office. Recently on a voyage home the ship's medical officer fell ill, and, in consequence, our correspondent performed his duties for sixteen days. He did not want any work, but did it out of courtesy to his colleague, who was worrying himself over the matter. There was a good deal of sickness on board. On arrival in England he was offered by the company a fee of £1 a day as remuneration for his services. This he declined, considering that the basis of his payment should be the amount paid for his passage during the days that he was acting plus the salary of the ship's medical officer. Was he right or wrong?

* * * This does not seem to have been one of those occasions on which it is well for medical men to stand out for their full rights, whatever they may be, and our correspondent would have been better advised, perhaps, to take a cheque for £16 as a not ungenerous acknowledgement of services rendered alike to the company and to his colleague.

ANSWERS.

RENLM.—Qualitative analysis of the proprietary article "C. B. Q." shows it to contain potassium iodide (about 1½ gr. in each tablet), a small quantity of salicylate, magnesia, and a vegetable extract; the latter is hygroscopic, and the magnesia is no doubt employed to facilitate its production in a form suitable for tablet making. The extract is slightly bitter, but showed no characteristic property which would serve for its identification; a small amount of alkaloid is present, which does not agree in properties with any of the commoner medicinal alkaloids.

TREATMENT OF PSORIASIS.

R. M. writes, in reply to "H. C. J.": In obstinate psoriasis excellent results are obtained sometimes by carefully-measured doses of x rays, which should not be so large as to produce even hyperaemia, but keeping just short of that. I would strongly advise a trial.

DR. WISHART (Dudley, Northumberland) writes: If "H. C. J." will communicate with me I can give him the loan of a reprint on the local treatment of psoriasis.

R. W. M.—The following works will probably meet our correspondent's requirements: (1) Stimson: *A Practical Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations*. Fifth edition. 1908. Henry Kimpton. 25s. (2) Scudder: *Treatment of Fractures*. Sixth edition. W. B. Saunders. 1907. 24s.

DR. H. J. THORP (Ipswich) writes: In reply to "H. C. J." for treatment of psoriasis, I would suggest for his patient salicin gr. 15 three times daily. *Locally*, remove the scales with soft soap and water, and then the following lotion to be sponged freely over three times a day: R. Liq. carb. deterg. (Wright's), ʒss to ʒj; Aquam ad ʒviiij. Ft. lotio.

LETTERS, NOTES, Etc.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE URETHRA.

We have received a communication from Dr. Laird Pearson, of Birkenhead, in which he states that a patient, a married man, aged 40, recently presented himself having in his urethra a hatpin with a common black glass head and a shaft about 5½ in. long. It had been inserted head first, and the point was imbedded in the tissues about 1½ in. from the meatus. The head had not entered the bladder. To remove it he steadied the head in its original position and at the same time drove the point out through the under surface of the penis by pressing the latter against point. He then pulled on the shaft until the head was in the urethra and shaft and head directly perpendicular to its axis. By reversing the movement the head and shaft were then extruded through the meatus without difficulty. These measures proved curiously painless, and the patient was surprised at the readiness with which relief was afforded him.

CANCER OF THE WOMB.

DR. ALEXANDER DUKE (London, W.) writes: There are a considerable number of obstetricians and gynaecologists who will hardly subscribe to all the aphorisms on the above subject published in leaflet form by the Central Midwives Board. The statement, "Unless treated early by removal it *always* ends in death," might be followed by the statement—When removed often ends in death, etc. At first it is the only part attacked, and *is not in the system*. (The italics are mine.) Then where did the attack come from? I think the consensus of opinion regards any form of cancer, except epithelioma, as a constitutional disease, the "part attacked" being only the manifestation of the disease. The statement, "if removed early it can be frequently cured" suggests exact meaning of cured, required to prove statement? "If the womb bleeds on touch, this generally means cancer." This depends altogether on how it was touched and how often.

ERRATUM.

We regret that, owing to a printer's error, the name of the writer of the article on "A Case of Ectopic Gestation, with Unusually Early Symptoms" (which appeared in the JOURNAL of May 16th) was incorrectly given. The author's name should have been E. A. Seale, not E. A. Searle.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Eight lines and under	0	4	0
Each additional line	0	0	6
A whole column	2	13	4
A page	8	0	0

An average line contains six words.

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Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, not later than first post on Wednesday-morning preceding publication; and if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

N.B.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive letters at *Postes Restantes* addressed either in initials or numbers.