

## Medical News

The next meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety will be held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on Tuesday, July 10th, at 4 p.m., when Dr. John Y. Dent will read a paper on "Apomorphine in the Treatment of Anxiety States, especially Alcoholism."

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of London will present the prizes to students of the London School of Medicine for Women, in the Albert Levy Hall, Royal Free Hospital, on Wednesday, July 11th, at 3.30 p.m. Academic dress will be worn; tea at 4.15.

The Fellowship of Medicine (1, Wimpole Street, W.) has arranged lecture-demonstrations at 11, Chandos Street, W., on July 10th and 17th, at 2.30 p.m.; demonstrations at West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases (in-patient department) on July 10th, at 8.30 p.m.; at 11, Chandos Street, W., July 18th and 19th, at 4.30 p.m.; at National Temperance Hospital, July 14th, at 3 p.m.; courses in urology at All Saints' Hospital from July 9th to 27th; and in dermatology at Blackfriars Skin Hospital from July 9th to 21st. Particulars are given week by week in our *Supplement* in the Diary of Post graduate Courses.

The director of the Wellcome Archaeological Research Expedition to the Near East announces that the annual exhibition of antiquities from Tell Duweir, Palestine (1933-4 excavations), will be open at 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W., until July 21st from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and until 8 p.m. on July 12th and 20th. Admission free without ticket.

A conference on occupational therapy, arranged by the National Council for Mental Hygiene, will be held at 26, Portland Place, W., on Wednesday, July 11th. The afternoon session commences at 2.30 p.m., under the chairmanship of Sir Henry Gauvain, when Dr. J. B. McDougall will speak on "Occupational Therapy and its End-results," and Dr. Veronica Dawkins on "Occupational Therapy, its Possibilities and Limitations in a Sanatorium." Mr. H. J. Seddon will open the discussion on "Occupational Therapy in Relation to Orthopaedic Surgery." At 8.15 p.m., with Dr. Nathan Raw in the chair, Mrs. Eleanor C. Slagle will describe recent methods and advances in America. The discussion will be opened by Dr. J. R. Rees, Dr. Elizabeth Casson, E. N. A. Haworth, and Miss Ruth Darwin. Tickets (1s. 6d. for each session or 2s. 6d. for the whole conference) are obtainable from the Secretary, National Council for Mental Hygiene, 78, Chandos House, Palmer Street, S.W.1, or at the doors.

A voyage d'études médicales to the French spas will take place this year in South-East France from September 5th to 16th inclusive, under the conduct of Professor Maurice Villaret, Professor Giraud, Professor Serr, and Dr. Etienne Chabrol. Apart from a visit to the spas in the district, such as Vernet-les-Bains, Luchon, the tour will embrace interesting touring centres like the Gorges du Tarn, Carcassonne, and the Republic of Andorra. Further information may be had from the Federation of the Health Resorts of France, Tavistock House (North), Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

On June 21st Mr. L. G. Brock, chairman of the Board of Control, laid the foundation stone of the Runwell Mental Hospital, which will be shared by the county boroughs of East Ham and Southend, and is designed to accommodate in the first instance 875 patients.

A meeting of the School Medical Service Group will be held at 81, Addison Road, Holland Park, W., on Thursday, July 19th, at 5.15 p.m., when Dr. Gerald Slot will give an address on "Absenteeism in Defective School Children."

The new Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Welwyn, will be opened by H.R.H. The Duchess of York on Tuesday, July 24th, at 3 p.m.

Professor G. Grey Turner, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the Accademia Lancisiana di Roma.

Councillor and Mrs. W. Barratt have given £20,000 for the erection of a maternity wing at the Northampton General Hospital.

Sir Donald MacAlister, President of the General Medical Council 1904-31, Principal of Glasgow University 1907-29, and afterwards Chancellor, left estate valued at £61,575.

June 26th marked the centenary of the death of Sir Gilbert Blane, author of *Observations on the Diseases of Seamen*, who successfully brought about the disappearance of scurvy from the British Navy by the enforced use of lemon juice.

Mr. Edward William Meyerstein of Dunton Green, Kent, has sent to Prince Arthur of Connaught, chairman of the Middlesex Hospital, a cheque for £70,000 towards the completion of the hospital buildings. He gave £30,000 to the same hospital three months ago.

We much regret to learn, at the moment of going to press, of the death of MADAME CURIE, in a sanatorium in Haute Savoie. The name of Marie Sklodowska Curie, with that of her husband Pierre Curie, who died in 1906, will be for ever associated with the discovery of radium.

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to **The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, B.M.A. 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. Authors over-seas should indicate on MSS. if reprints are required, as proofs are not sent abroad.

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 NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, four lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are:

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumshugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### House Flies

"G. L." writes: From May until the autumn, during the last three or four years, in a house containing nearly forty windows, one single window has been chosen as a promenade by a large number of flies of all sizes; chemical warfare has been waged with paraffin, formalin, camphor, "flit," lavender, citronella, etc., and the windows have been taken out of their frames in order to look for breeding places, but all without success. Can anyone suggest a cause and a lethal permanent cure?

### Persistent Epistaxis

"H. H." (Salford) writes with regard to the case mentioned on June 2nd (p. 1015): Might I ask "W. D. C." if haemoplastin (Parke, Davis and Co.) has been tried? Two injections, given close together, followed by others, if necessary, at longer intervals, might quite well cure the condition. Thromboplastin, made by the same firm, is for local application, and would probably be found to be very useful during any attack.

**Pruritus with Jaundice**

"B. S." writes in reply to the query by "P. J. M." (June 16th, p. 1103): In *Clinical Memoranda*, by Brand and Keith, thyroid extract is recommended to allay the pruritus of jaundice. Of local applications, one of my patients found a solution of Jeyes's fluid most useful, but I had not heard of this possible use of thyroid extract when this patient was ill.

**Results of Operations for Elephantiasis**

Mr. H. F. BLACKLEE (Barrow-in-Furness) writes in reply to the inquiry by "I. S. Q." (June 30th, p. 1195): May I refer to a case of extreme lymphatic stasis of one lower limb in a young male patient. The condition had persisted since childhood, and had resulted in a huge useless limb, as illustrated in the textbooks of tropical medicine. I performed a Kondoleon operation some four years ago, and the end-result has been highly satisfactory—so much so that last week I met the patient returning from his evening tennis. An especially gratifying feature is the return of soft pliable skin, and also the disappearance of ulcers caused by the pressure of rolls of elephantoid tissue in his original condition.

**Exercises for Lumbago**

"B. R." (Glasgow) writes in reply to the inquiry by "W. T. H." (p. 1195): Hornibrook's *Culture of the Abdomen* provides several exercises of great value in lumbago. These exercises are meant primarily for the abdominal muscles, but several of them have a marked effect in loosening up the muscles in the lower part of the back. For years I had chronic lumbago, developing severe attacks every few months, and being confined to bed in great pain for several days. I have got almost entirely rid of this trouble, and put my cure down to three things—water, self-massage, and exercises. The self-massage is best done through the pyjamas, using two round-ended rulers. With these a fairly powerful massage can be managed by the patient himself. Water by itself being admittedly an uninteresting drink, I take my extra fluid in the form of weak tea during the afternoon, when I do not eat anything. My experience would go to show that in the cure of chronic lumbago there remain these three things, self-massage, exercise, and water, and the greatest of these is water.

**Income Tax****Allowance for Car**

"W. T." purchased a car in April, 1933, for £135, and used it for locumtenent work until September, 1933, when he obtained a resident permanent appointment. The car was wrecked in December, 1933, and the insurance company paid £95. What can he claim?

\*\* (1) Running costs, including licence and insurance, in so far as they were incurred on professional work and were not covered by an allowance received from the practitioner for whom he worked. (2) Depreciation allowance for the six months while he was using the car professionally—that is, 1/2 of 20 per cent. of £135 = £13 10s. With regard to commissions paid to a medical agency for locumtenent work, in our view the earnings of such work are assessable (Schedule D) as professional profits (rather than as emoluments of specific employments), and the deduction of the commission should be allowed.

**Payment for Introduction of a Partner**

"W. E." asks whether a payment of £50 to a medical transfer agency for the introduction of a partner is an allowable expense.

\*\* No. It is not incurred in the carrying on of the practice, but in connexion with a change—or partial change—in proprietorship, and as such is a "capital" expense.

**Fees Paid by Locumtenent**

"W. W." asks whether agency fees paid for procuring locumtenent work are deductible.

\*\* We consider that they are deductible. Where they are refused it is usually because the remuneration received is regarded as the earnings of an "employment," and therefore assessable under Schedule E. In our opinion the various earnings are assessable under Schedule D, as the profits of carrying on a profession—the periods of engagement being normally fairly brief—and on that basis the expense is properly allowable, as is also the cost of travelling from place to place while carrying on the profession in that particular way.

**Car Transactions—New Practice**

"PUZZLED" bought a car for £110 in October, 1931, and commenced to use it professionally on July 1st, 1933, when he entered a G.P. partnership. He sold it in December, 1933, for £40, buying a new car for £127 10s. That car he sold in June, 1934, for £105, and bought another for £140. The first accounts of the new partnership are being made up as for the year to June 30th, 1934.

\*\* On the basis of writing off 20 per cent. on written-down value the original car would be valued at £75 on July 1st, 1933. The replacement allowance would therefore be £75 - £40 = £35 only, and it would seem best to adhere to the alternative depreciation allowance and drop a "renewal" claim. On that basis he should claim:

(a) For the period July 1st, 1933, to April 5th, 1934:

	£	s.	d.
£75 at 20 per cent. for six months ... ..	7	10	0
£127 10s. at 20 per cent. for three months ...	6	10	0
Total ... ..	£14	0	0

(b) For the year to April 5th, 1935:

£127 10s. - £6 10s. = £121 at 20 per cent. for three months ... ..	6	0	0
£140 at 20 per cent. for nine months... ..	21	0	0
Total ... ..	£27	0	0

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****The Cancer Problem**

Dr. H. SEARLE BAKER (London, N.3) writes: My attention has been drawn to a letter from Dr. E. F. Hunt in your issue of June 16th (p. 1096). If he will refer to a paper of mine, published in the *Lancet* of September 16th, 1933, he will note that the treatment he advocates has been tried, with results that were definitely encouraging. The method is now being explored intensively, but it is unlikely that any further publication will be made from the purely clinical angle for about a year from now.

Mr. ADAM GOWANS WHYTE (The British Electrical Development Association, 2, Savoy Hill, W.C.2) writes: In your issue of June 16th (p. 1096) Mr. A. W. B. Livesay makes the following observation: "What we want to find is the unknown irritant that is responsible for the abrupt rise in the cancer death rate that occurred in the latter third of the nineteenth century, the time of the introduction of the gas ring and the electric kettle; the rise has continued ever since." I offer no comment upon the suggestion that some connexion may exist between cancer and the boiling of water by one method rather than another, but as a matter of historical fact the electric kettle was a rare phenomenon until the present century was well on its way.

**Asthma in Childhood**

"G.P." (Surrey) writes: I gave an asthmatic child ephedrine, sodium iodide, and belladonna with excellent results, and I gained great kudos. I did not trouble about a vaccine, as the mother gave me to understand the child was cured. One night the child got another attack of asthma, and the father, with whom I was not very well acquainted, went for another doctor, who gave a vaccine made from the child's sputum, and the child has been in excellent condition ever since. It follows, then, that all drugs are only for temporary use in asthma in children.

The firm of W. Martindale, manufacturing chemists and wholesale druggists, have issued a handy list of their medical products. The booklet is intended primarily for medical men, and any doctor who does not receive a copy by post may have one if he applies to 12, New Cavendish Street, W.1.

The address of the Grenfell Association of Great Britain and Ireland has now been changed to 66, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, and 54 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 24.