

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Hormones for Enlarged Prostate

Dr. S. (Bombay) writes: A physician, aged 55, is suffering from hypertrophy of the prostate. Can anyone give his experience of injections of testosterone propionate and pituitary hormones in such cases? How much of the testicular hormone should be injected, and how often? Should the pituitary hormone be given at the same time as or after the injections of testicular extract? Does this treatment obviate the need for operation?

#### Glycosialia?

Dr. ISOBEL G. SMITH writes: A female patient of mine, aged 70, is complaining of an almost constant sweet taste in the mouth. The condition began about a year ago, but at that time only occurred some time after a meal. The dentures which she wears become covered with a sort of sticky adherent film, in spite of washing them after eating food. The gastric juice is normal and the bowels are kept regular. A catarrhal condition of the nasopharynx was dealt with and frequent mouth washes and paints have been used, but the patient continues to complain bitterly of the disagreeable taste. I would be most interested to know if anyone can suggest a cause, and, more especially, a treatment.

#### Incapacitating Diarrhoea

"D. G. O." in reply to "Emdee" (*Journal*, December 11, 1937, p. 1206), writes: I suggest that "Emdee" takes one drachm of acid. hydrochlor. dil. in a wineglassful of water or lemonade, thrice daily, after meals. This very simple prescription has proved effective in a similar case of unexplained diarrhoea.

#### Primary Vaccination

Dr. C. LUTHER BATESON (Watford) writes: I am in agreement with Dr. S. H. de G. Pritchard (*Journal*, March 5, p. 550) when he expresses the opinion that post-vaccinal encephalitis is largely due to the use of rabbit lymph. So far as my recollection goes these cases were not met with until some bright economist thought of using animals other than calves for the supply of lymph.

#### Income Tax

##### Employment of Maidservant

"SIGMA" asks: "What is the usual amount allowed in respect of a maid's help?" Hitherto he has been allowed £80 per annum, but the inspector of taxes wants to restrict it to £52 in future.

\*\* It is difficult to offer any general guidance because so much depends on the particular circumstances. The

amount must have regard to (a) the total cost (including board, laundry, etc.) of the domestic staff, and (b) the proportion which relates to the professional side—looking after the waiting room and surgery, attending on callers, etc. In our experience where two maids are kept an allowance of £100 per annum is not uncommon.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Human Embryos Wanted

Dr. MARY CRIPPS writes: I am doing a piece of research on human embryos, and find it very difficult to obtain specimens, especially the early ones. Those I particularly need are embryos of the sixth week of pregnancy. I would like them put in very weak formalin (2 or 3 per cent.). Readers of the *Journal* who are kind enough to send specimens of this age should address them to me at the Histology Department, Royal College of Physicians, Forest Road, Edinburgh. They must be packed in accordance with Post Office regulations.

#### Hydrotherapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis

"CRIPPLED" writes: With regard to the question raised by Brigadier-General F. E. Burnham as to the advisability of giving hydrotherapy in the acute stage of rheumatoid arthritis (*Journal*, February 5, p. 308), may I suggest that it is perhaps, as he has found, not hydrotherapy which should be avoided, but rather the application of heat without water. No doubt each patient reacts differently, but the following facts are from my own personal experience. In the first place, ordinary "reclining baths" with the water at a scalding temperature, in which I lay until I felt faint—that is, for about ten minutes—followed by a cold sponge, relieved pain and stiffness, but only for a few hours. Secondly, radiant heat applied to the limbs immediately produced a violent exacerbation of the symptoms. Thirdly, steam vapour baths produced a gradually cumulative damage with disastrous final results. In these baths the whole body except the head was exposed to both radiant heat and steam vapour. Finally, hot weather often increased the severity of the pain. In my own case the relief afforded by heat when applied through water was nearly as remarkable as the exacerbation of the pain when heat was applied without it.

#### Disclaimers

Dr. GEOFFREY KONSTAM writes: In an article in a daily newspaper on March 1 concerning an operation on a hospital patient of mine suffering from Pick's disease mention was made of my name and address. I was greatly distressed on reading this article, which was written without my knowledge or consent, and I took immediate steps to prevent a repetition of such unwanted publicity. The information was apparently given to the Press by a member of the patient's family, and I was unaware of it until the article was shown to me after publication.

Mr. FRANK J. P. O'GORMAN (Doncaster) writes: A recent article in the local Press makes reference to one of my cases in which an intracardiac injection of adrenaline was given. The report was of certain proceedings where, on behalf of others, I made a presentation to a retiring midwife. Through the courtesy of your columns I would like to disclaim any connexion with the ridiculous sensationalism of the report about this case.

#### Corrigenda

Drs. Jenkinson and Milne wish to draw attention to an error in their article on "Insulin-Tannic-Acid-Zinc Suspension in Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus," published in our issue of February 19. The end of the last sentence in paragraph three (page 381, sixth line of first column) should read: "with the addition of zinc, 1 milligramme to 500 units of insulin"—not "1 gramme to 500 units."

In the *Journal* of March 5 we published at page 504 an article by Dr. A. Morton Gill on "Pneumonitis." At page 507, under paragraph (f), "suffering from chorea and rheumatic carditis complicated by pneumonia" should have read, "suffering from chorea and rheumatic carditis complicated by pneumonitis."