

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

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

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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.

ETIOLOGY OF SPLENIC LEUKAEMIA.

SCOTICUS asks: Is splenic leukaemia known to follow carbon monoxide poisoning? As for instance in these circumstances—where a man has been exposed to carbon monoxide poisoning three times in twelve months and dies within the following year from splenic leukaemia. Also can there be any connexion between splenic leukaemia and malignant disease of the spleen? What authorities can be quoted?

RESULTS OF THE "KNOCK-OUT" BLOW IN BOXING.

R. W. M. writes: In view of the great booming of boxing now, when we hear of matches and competitions, amateur and professional, on every side, I am curious to inquire into the results, or rather the after-history of those men who have been "knocked out." Can any one tell the after-history of any of these men? Some are "knocked-out" by blows on the angle of the jaw, or rather I should say the point of the chin, others by blows over the heart, and a third lot by blows over the solar plexus. To me, this seems the most serious. I understand that Fitzsimmons "knocked-out" man after man by blows over the solar plexus, that the men fell groaning, and were carried from the ring in a state of more or less insensibility. Can any one tell the after-history of those men? Did they recover perfectly, or were there any evil effects left, and what were the after-symptoms? I have heard that many "never were themselves again," but as to that I do not know.

ANSWERS.

J. L. M.—(1) Messrs. Holloway and Webb, Limited, military camp outfitters, 347, Cable Street, E., inform us that a well-made military tent used, say, twice in each year, has a life of about five years. When stored it should be put away perfectly dry and in a dry place. (2) Berthon tents are used for cases of enteric fever. (3) A joint hospital board decides for itself which infectious diseases shall be admitted into the hospital under its control.

FRENCH MEDICAL PERIODICALS.

FRENCH.—There are a multiplicity of periodicals suitable to our correspondent's purpose. Of those published in Paris, *La Semaine Médicale* (53, Avenue de Villiers, foreign subscription 15 francs, subscriptions commence January 1st, back numbers being supplied) would perhaps prove most satisfactory at the present time. Among the few monthlies, the *Archives Générales de Médecine* (25, Rue de l'Ecole de Médecine, foreign subscription 18 francs, commencing from any quarter-day) stands highest. Other journals are *Le Progrès Médical* (46, Rue des Ecoles, 12 francs), *La Tribune Médicale* (152, Rue de Valenciennes, 12 francs), both weeklies; and the *Gazette Médicale de Paris* (1, Rue Casimir Delavigne, 7 francs) a fortnightly publication.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

ERRATUM.—In the second line from the end of Dr. Horace Dobell's letter on Sleep and Want of Sleep (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, March 13th, p. 691), for "Ft. guttae 3iv" read "Ft. guttae 3iv."

AN APPEAL TO MASONS.

MR. SYDNEY GRAHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Watchet, Somerset), writes: Will you permit me through the columns of your JOURNAL to make an appeal to all professional brethren who are Freemasons to give their assistance in the following case: Dr. John Henry Sharpe, aged 45 years, who was formerly in practice at Huntspill, Bridgwater, who held the office of Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator under the Bridgwater Board of Guardians for fourteen years, and a member of the Highbridge Lodge No. 291 (W.M. 1895 and Secretary for three years; also W.M. Mark Lodge No. 191, and P.Z. of Chapter 291), had, unfortunately, in 1904 to give up his practice owing to the development of ataxic symptoms. Since that time he has not been in a position to earn anything owing to the state of his health, and he has no private means. He has a wife and six young children dependent upon him, and by the kindness of his friends and craft he has been greatly aided in getting them educated, and he now ventures to make a further appeal to charitable Masons to help him to get his son, Edward Herbert, aged 10, into the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. This appeal would not be made if there was any probability of an improvement in Dr. Sharpe's physical or financial condition, and in proof that the case is one thoroughly deserving of the brethren's sympathy and support, I am permitted to say that the application is supported by Dr. Vereker, Langport; Dr. F. C. Berry, Burnham; Dr. N. Burns, Highbridge; Dr. C. R. Bishop, Shepton Mallet; and the Charity Organization Society of Somerset. Any members holding votes in either of the Masonic charities are earnestly requested to forward them to T. F. Norris, Esq., Charity Delegate, Highbridge, Somerset, as soon as possible, as the election takes place in April.

BOYS' RACES.

MR. J. HERBERT FARMER (London, W.) in the course of reply to criticisms, writes: My critics carefully avoid or carelessly miss the point of the medical opinion to which I was privileged to give publicity. You will remember that five of the most eminent medical authorities Britain possesses—Sir Lauder Brunton, Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Alfred Fripp, Dr. James F. Goodhart, and Dr. W. Hale White—speaking from their personal experience and that of their professional colleagues, emphatically condemned, in their letter to me, races exceeding one mile in distance for the average healthy schoolboy under the age of 19. Yet schoolmasters and others argue that, because they themselves have not known cases of injury through long-distance racing, such cases do not occur; whilst some persons evidently have failed to realize the essential difference between (a) a long-distance race for a prize in which the competitors will gamely struggle along till they drop in their anxiety to win the cup; and (b) road or cross-country runs, which are taken merely for purposes of exercise, and in which the boys can and do enjoy frequent restful "breathers" whenever they begin to feel the warnings of exhaustion.

DR. HEBERT.

IN its issue for February 27th the *West London Gazette* notes that on the 22nd of the same month the *Star* and the *Morning Leader* settled out of court, by payment of agreed damages, actions for libel brought against them by Dr. P. Z. Hebert of Marylebone. They had previously published expressions of apology and regret. A record is added of a large number of other papers which at earlier dates adopted a similar course. The libel consisted in the publication some two years ago of an account of an affair near Paris in which Dr. Hebert was wounded. It was alleged that the principals in this affair were a gang of swindlers carrying on a matrimonial agency, Dr. Hebert being their English confederate. The affair was the subject of very prolonged police inquiry, but eventually all charges against Dr. Hebert were dismissed.

THE DOMESTIC PREPARATION OF SOURED OR CURDLED MILK.

G. R. G. writes: A patient who has suffered from colitis has been taking curdled milk daily with much benefit. The milk has been curdled by the addition of lactic acid tablets at a temperature of 104° F., and from a pint and a-half to two pints has been taken each day. Latterly he has been in the habit of adding to the fresh milk along with the tablets a small quantity of the whey from the previous day's "brew," and he finds that this considerably hastens the curdling, which with the tablets alone takes from eight to ten hours. But it also makes the product much more sour and acid, and I have my doubts as to whether it is a wise proceeding, as I think it is likely that other acids and ferments may be present, which are undesirable. Can any of your readers who have had experience of the curdled milk diet give advice on this matter?

MR. JOHN G. HUME (Duns) writes: It became my duty some time ago to provide a daily supply of curdled milk. Because of the difficulty which many find in providing the same, I think it worth while to detail the method used. The milk was just brought to the boil at any convenient time (say in the forenoon), and allowed to cool in the vessel in which it had been boiled. When sugar was dissolved in the milk this was done immediately on its removal from the fire. At (say)