

The November supplement of the *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* contains a revised student's check list of texts illustrating the history of medicine, compiled by Fielding H. Garrison.

Amongst the latest contributions to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London is the sum of £1,000, being the annual subscription of His Majesty The King, Patron of the Fund.

Dame Janet Campbell, M.D., M.S., retired at the end of 1933 from her post as senior medical officer for maternity and child welfare at the Ministry of Health, and chief woman medical adviser to the Board of Education.

Dr. William Habgood will retire in March, after twenty-six years' service as medical officer of health for the urban district of Sutton and Cheam.

## 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 overseas 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).

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Chlorophyll and Crème de Menthe

Surgeon Rear-Admiral CHARLES M. BEADNELL, R.N. (ret.), writes: The late Sir Ray Lankester, F.R.S., in an article, "The Simplest Things," in *Science from an Easy Chair* (published 1910), states that chlorophyll "may be seen in solution in the liqueur known as 'crème de menthe,' being used to give its fine green colour to that preparation." Recently, however, a friend of mine informed me that he examined this liqueur spectroscopically side by side with an ethereal extract of the leaf-green of the nettle, and that whereas the latter showed the characteristic bands in the red of chlorophyll the former did not. Can any of your readers inform me whether the makers of this liqueur have or have not given up chlorophyll as a dye, and, if they have, the nature of the colouring matter now in use?

### Convalescent Home

Dr. J. S. McLAREN (Stratford-on-Avon) would be glad to learn of any convalescent home which would take in an elderly gentleman (75 years of age) who is recovering from a nervous breakdown. Not a mental institution, but a home which is not too large, and preferably one with a resident medical officer, and fees about 5 guineas a week.

### Mental Allergy?

"A. G." (Bath) writes: Allergy in the physical sphere has, I think, rather a remarkable mental or psychic counterpart. Just as some bodies react violently to usually innocuous substances, so some minds seem unable to tolerate the presence of certain harmless objects. I am alluding to the well-known horror which many people suffer from mice, cats, spiders, etc. That this fear is an integral part of the mental make-up, and not the result of superimposed experience, seems to be likely from the harmless nature of the creatures objected to. It would be of interest also to know whether the dread is hereditary. It does not appear

to be confined exclusively to the human species, as I have read of a male chimpanzee at the Zoo, of which it was said that "a mouse reduces him to a state of abject terror and makes him scream like a terrified child." This shuddering dislike seems to be usually aroused by living creatures, but I can remember the unspeakable terror with which, during the first few years of my life, I was filled by cobwebs, and when a little older by the sound of a particular steam saw. It would be interesting to know whether these abnormal sensations occur chiefly in allergic individuals or families, as there is so strange a resemblance between the two conditions.

## LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

### New Year Honours: Addendum

The name of Major JOHN GILMOUR, M.C., F.R.C.S.Ed., President of the International Quarantine Board, Egypt, upon whom has been conferred the honour of C.M.G., was omitted from the list of New Year Honours published in our issue of January 6th (p. 30).

### Treatment of Scabies

Dr. R. R. CLIPSTEIN (London, E.8), writes: In the *Journal* of January 6th (p. 16) Dr. A. D. Matthews states that he found sulphur ointment and  $\beta$ -naphthol ointment (2½-7½ per cent.) ineffective in a case of severe scabies. Personally I have found the following ointment valuable in this condition: acid. carbol. liq.,  $\text{m} \times$ ; sulph. præcip., grains  $x$ ; resorcin., grains  $x$ ; paraffin. moll., ad  $\mathfrak{z}$ i. It invariably relieves itching, and I have never yet observed any unpleasant reaction, even in young children. It appears to be as effective as the Bayer preparation "mitigal," and has the great advantage of being inexpensive.

### Advertising by Medical Men in Former Days

Dr. O. B. SHELSWELL (Forest Green, Dorking) writes: Unless my grandfather was over the lines of medical etiquette of his time, of which I think him incapable, advertising by medical men seems to have been resorted to at a considerably later period than that mentioned by your correspondent in the *Journal* of December 30th, 1933, as evidenced by the following. This somewhat florid notice was found at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, in the *Oxford Journal* dated November 26th, 1803: "H. Shelswell respectfully informs his friends and the public in general that he succeeds his Uncle, Mr. Mead, deceased, at Sibford aforesaid, where the practice of Surgery, Midwifery, and Medicine will be carried on with the utmost care and attention—and he hopes to merit the approbation of those he may have the honour of attending by the strictest assiduity and attention in the different branches of the profession and on the most reasonable terms."

### A Warning

A correspondent in West London writes: The police have asked me to communicate the following circumstances, in the hope of catching a crook. A man called at my house yesterday and said that he had been out of work, but had at last got it. He was, he said, a joiner by trade, and must first get his tools out (presumably from pawn). Could I give him any work? I said he could make some book shelves for me: this he agreed to do, taking measurements and giving an estimate. He then said he must have £1 for the wood; this I gave him, and never saw him again. The police office to which I applied was at Askew Road, Shepherd's Bush.

### Prices of Insulin "A.B."

Messrs. Allen and Hanburys Ltd. and The British Drug Houses Ltd., joint manufacturers of insulin "A.B.," announce a reduction in the prices as from January 11th, as follows: 5 c.cm. phials (100 units), 1s. 10d.; 10 c.cm. phials (200 units), 3s. 6d.; 5 c.cm. phials (200 units), 3s. 6d.; 5 c.cm. phials (400 units), 6s. 9d.

### Corrigendum

We are asked to correct a date given in the report of Professor Leyland Robinson's presidential address before the North of England Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society, published last week at page 18. Chapman published his book in 1733 not 1773.

### Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, and 47 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44 and 45.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 15.