

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 Secretary, B.M.A. 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 should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager. Orders for copies of the *Journal* and communications with reference to subscriptions should be addressed to the Secretary, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

The TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111.

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are

EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Aitology Westcent, London.*

SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westcent, London.*

The address of the B.M.A. Scottish Office is 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh), and of the Office of the Irish Free State Medical Union (I.M.A. and B.M.A.), 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone 62550 Dublin).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Painful Tongue

Dr. S. DE GRÓSZ (Budapest) writes in reply to "Worried" (*Journal*, December 18, 1937, p. 1259): The case seems to be one of Möller's superficial glossitis, as pernicious anaemia may be excluded. Though there was no response to ovarian extract, the possibility of a climacteric origin should not be overlooked; some gastric disturbance may also be of aetiological significance. As a mouth-wash I should recommend huckleberry tea, made from 250 grammes of huckleberries in 1.5 litres of water, inspissated to half this volume and squeezed out; its frequent use is of greater value than the application of silver compounds. Concerning general treatment, I recommend the intravenous administration of vitamin C, suggested by Volhard. I would like to hear from "Worried" if this treatment has any effect.

Income Tax

Supplementary Reserve Commission Gratuity

"EPSILON" inquires whether an annual gratuity of about £25 falls within the non-taxable class of gratuities referred to in a note which appeared in the *Supplement* of November 7, 1936.

** No. "Epsilon's" gratuity is an annual payment made in connexion with an express or implied contract for service and as such is liable to income tax. The gratuities which we explained were not taxable are lump sum payments made on cessation of an appointment, and though arising out of the service rendered cannot be regarded as "annual," and are therefore not assessable to tax.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Chlorine Mixture for Typhoid

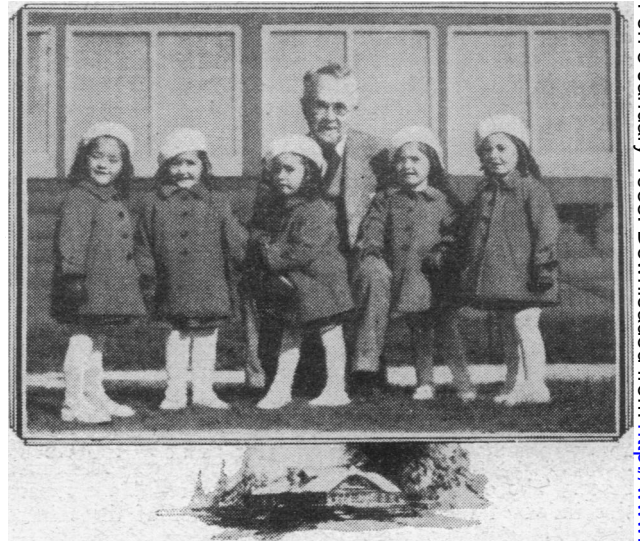
Dr. ALEXANDER FRANCIS (London, W.1) writes: I would strongly advocate the giving of Burney Yeo's chlorine and quinine mixture to all typhoid suspects. There is much doubt as to the advisability of administering T.A.B. vaccine in such cases, but the chlorine mixture is absolutely harmless and safe. I had very considerable experience of the treatment of typhoid fever when in charge of a hospital in the west of Queensland, where typhoid was very prevalent. Many of the cases were desperate, because the bushmen made light of illness and would not come to hospital until the second or third week of the disease, after all home remedies, including "trying to ride it off," had failed. From the time I made use of Burney Yeo's chlorine mixture I was fortunate enough not to have a fatal case, and some of the recoveries in patients who were brought to hospital in the "typhoid state," delirious, with tongues like boiled leather and with sordes on the lips, were amazing. It is a common practice to chlorinate water in order to destroy the typhoid bacillus,

and if chlorine mixture were given to suspects it would almost certainly prevent the disease from developing, and at all events make an attack much less severe. It is important that the mixture be made according to Burney Yeo's directions.

** The instructions quoted in Martindale's *Extra Pharmacopoeia* are as follows: *Mistura Chlori cum Quinina* (Burney Yeo). To potassium chlorate, in powder, 30 gr., in a 12-oz. bottle, add hydrochloric acid 60 m.; cork and shake well to liberate chlorine; absorb this by gradually adding, and shaking after each addition, distilled water *q.s.* to 11 oz.; and quinine sulphate 24 gr. (or 36 if ordered), syrup of orange 1 oz. *Dose.*—1 oz. (30 ml.) every two, three, or four hours for typhoid; it quickly cleanses the tongue.

The Quintuplets and their Doctor

On May 28, 1934, Mrs. Elzire Dionne, a young French-Canadian living in a settlement two hundred miles north of Lake Ontario, gave birth to five living girls. Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe of Callander arrived after the birth of two of the infants, but was present during the delivery of the remaining three and took charge of the whole situation. The progress of the Dionne quintuplets has been a subject of world-wide publicity almost from the date of their birth. In the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* for November, 1937, Drs. A. R. and W. A. Dafoe reported that at 3 years the



children had reached an average weight of 30 lb. 8 oz.—at birth it was 2 lb. 11 oz. In general their health and physical development has been satisfactory. Two years ago we reproduced in this column a Christmas and New Year card showing the "quins" and their doctor at play on the nursery floor. Dr. A. R. Dafoe now sends us, with the compliments of the season, a contemporary group taken beside the self-contained wooden house where the children live under State care and protection; beneath the photograph is a little view of their home.

Cambridge Medical Women

The writer of a letter published in the *Sunday Times* of January 2 said with reference to Cambridge medical degrees: "Though women are admitted with men to this examination and take the same papers and viva voce, and appear, if successful, in the same lists as men, yet they are not recognized by Cambridge University as having taken the degree and they are not entitled to add M.B.(Cantab.) after their names. They are not entitled, for instance, to make use of those words on a brass plate." This is incorrect. A woman who has received the title of the degree of M.B. from the University of Cambridge may add "M.B." or "M.B.(Cantab.," to her name on her professional door-plate or elsewhere; and in fact "M.B." is added to her name in official lists published by the University.

Local Application of Prontosil Red

Dr. J. F. P. GALLAGHER writes: I have obtained successful results in the treatment of erysipelas and acute dermatitis by using as a local application prontosil red, 7½ grains being dissolved in 1 oz. of distilled water. The value of this preparation as an external application should not be overlooked.