

the reason why Dr. Russell's patient was told to live on tripe for three months. One can quite understand why he has an empty feeling, is extremely constipated, and longs for something to eat. After long personal experience I have come to the conclusion that one of the best diets for a case of this sort is well-cooked frumenty, honey, and either fresh milk or curds, or soured milk. When frumenty is well made it gives bulk for the intestinal muscles to grip, and therefore cures constipation. It produces sufficient mass, and at the same time it has no irritating edges, but forms a soft pultaceous dish. This diet gives a sense of comfortable fullness, prevents constipation, and produces all the elements necessary for complete nutrition to a patient suffering from weakened digestive function.

Income Tax

Expenses—Residence in Eire

"G.P.'s" inquiries can be deduced from the following replies.

* * The depreciation allowance on a car is calculated by taking the original cost at 20 per cent. for the first year—that is, £200 at 20 per cent. = £40; for the second year it is 20 per cent. on the reduced value—that is (£200 - £40 =), £160 at 20 per cent. = £32; the third year it will be £160 - £32 = £128 at 20 per cent.—that is, £26, and so on. The cost of licences, insurances, repairs, etc., is allowable. If neither the inspector nor "G.P." has retained records of the receipts and expenses for 1934 it is probably impossible to reopen the assessment for that year. If, in the circumstances, "G.P." becomes a resident in Eire he will not, as from then, be liable to United Kingdom tax. Probably a local office in Dublin can advise him further on that point.

Assistance to Brother

"G." has a brother who is a student, and has accepted responsibility for payment of his fees and maintenance. Is he entitled to an allowance for such expenses?

* * No—the dependant relative allowance applies only where the relative is "incapacitated by old age or infirmity from maintaining himself."

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

A Nursing Recruitment Centre

Some time ago the King Edward's Hospital Fund was asked by the Voluntary Hospitals Committee for London whether it could not assist the hospitals in their difficulties in obtaining sufficient recruits for the nursing staff. At the same time the Voluntary Hospitals Committee placed evidence before the Interdepartmental Committee on Nursing Services stressing this point. The Interdepartmental Committee agreed in its report that it would be very valuable if some authoritative centre were set up where girls wishing to enter the nursing profession could obtain advice as to how best to do so and from which lecturers and speakers could be obtained by schools and similar bodies in order to encourage candidates to apply. The King's Fund voted the money necessary for the establishment of this centre last year, and arrangements were made for the centre to be opened in September. This was, of course, postponed, but now the King's Fund is going forward with the project and the Nursing Recruitment Centre has been opened at 21, Cavendish Square, London, W.1, where it is available to all who wish to enter the nursing profession. It is staffed by State-registered nurses, who are prepared to give information on all branches of nurse training, and individual guidance as to entering upon a nursing career. The centre will keep in close touch with the training schools, and will collect and distribute information as to the various pre-nursing courses now being established as a means of "bridging the gap" between the age of leaving school and that of entering hospital.

Training of the Blind

The National Institution for the Blind has issued a pamphlet dealing with the higher education of blind persons. It is an encouraging document, because it gives a list of well-known persons who hold high positions notwithstanding the handicap of blindness; these include men in holy orders, in university and other teaching, in law, and in business and administration. But, of course, there are many other rather humbler walks of life open to blind persons. It is not enough for local authorities to make grants for training; an endeavour must be made to find employment for the qualified persons, against whom there is sometimes a prejudice on account of their blindness. Information is given about the special training establishments run by the National

Institute and other organizations, especially the Institute's School of Massage and Electrotherapy in Great Portland Street, London. Here a two-years training is given in the anatomy, physiology, and pathology necessary for the work of such auxiliaries, in the theory and practice of massage, in Swedish remedial exercises, and in electrotherapy, and the examinations taken are those of the Chartered Society. It is mentioned that blind chartered masseurs and masseuses who have passed through the school hold appointments under the Ministry of Pensions, the British Red Cross Society, and many hospitals and local authorities.

Rubella in a Young Infant

Dr. H. C. CRAVEN VEITCH (St. Neots) writes: Dr. A. Freitag's note (May 11, p. 798) interested me, as I have just treated an infant under 5 weeks old with typical rubella. Perhaps it is not so uncommon in infants as one is led to believe.

A Plea for Cheaper Medical Books

"F. L." writes from India: The rapidly growing number of books on medical subjects and the frequency with which new editions occur are increasing the difficulties of the purchaser. The amount of new work being published is so great that the practising doctor could not hope to keep up with it, still less estimate its value. This makes it imperative that he should have at his disposal those books—for example, on pulmonary tuberculosis, infective diseases, diseases of the nervous system, etc.—written by the specialist where an adequate idea can be obtained of the present position in the particular branch of medicine. This need cannot be served by the libraries, since on the one hand at least one reasonably compendious book should be on the shelves of each practitioner, and in my experience in practice in England the book required always arrived at a period when one could not take the best advantage of it. To buy the books at the moment and replace them as something more up-to-date is published is financially impossible. The only answer to this problem seems to be cheaper books. When one considers how ephemeral is the value of most medical books to-day it seems ridiculous to publish so many of them as if they were presentation volumes of some poet or famous author. Published after the French style with paper backs, any book which one felt worth it could be bound in some more enduring manner. This would bring them within a moment's thought instead of the present serious consideration as to whether they justify the expenditure of forty or fifty shillings. At the moment it is impossible to get more than an elementary treatise under thirty shillings. One realizes that there must be a return to the publisher and the author for the effort of production, and that the limited number of those desirous of purchasing the book tends to increase the price. I merely contend that some of the cost could be saved by a much simpler style of publication, and also that the reduced price of the book would increase the sales enormously.

Books for the Forces

The topic of boredom on the home front has recently been discussed in our correspondence columns, and it has also been recognized as a malady that may afflict men in the Forces stationed in parts where but little fighting is done. The Lord Mayor of London and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh have recently appealed on behalf of the Service Libraries and Books Fund—an appeal which should find a response among members of the medical profession. Those who have books to spare, whether technical or otherwise, are asked to send them to the Secretary, City of London Territorial Army and Air Force Association, Finsbury Barracks, City Road, E.C.1. We are informed that as well as books the fund also needs money with which to buy classes of literature not given by the public—for example, works on the Near East or Scandinavian dictionaries. Contributions, therefore, will be as welcome as books, and cheques should be sent to the Lord Mayor of London, The Mansion House, London, E.C.4. Envelopes should be clearly marked "Books."

Corrigendum

We hasten to correct a small error in the account of Mr. Lionel Colledge's contribution to the discussion on radiotherapy in cancer of the upper respiratory and alimentary tracts, published last week at p. 784. The 153 cases of laryngeal cancer submitted to operation were operated on between 1920 and 1935 (not 1930 and 1935). Of these seventy-six have remained well for more than five years; and there are thirty-four which have remained without recurrence for more than ten years—twenty-seven in the intrinsic group and seven in the extrinsic group.