

Medical News

National rose-hip syrup will be on sale in chemists' shops in England, Scotland, and Wales from February 1. Its production is the sequel to the campaign organized by the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health for Scotland last summer and autumn, which resulted in the collection of 200 tons of rose hips—the equivalent of 134,000,000 fruits. The campaign was undertaken because rose hips are one of the richest sources of vitamin C. The success of the scheme was largely due to the ready co-operation of teachers, schools, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations, the Women's Institutes, and the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes. Members of these organizations not only gathered rose hips themselves, but arranged to send their supplies, together with those of the general public, in bulk to selected firms for conversion into syrup. Centres of the Women's Voluntary Services also acted as receiving depots. Altogether nine firms participated in the scheme and the collectors were paid 2s. for every 14 lb. of hips. Two sizes—6 oz. and 8 oz.—will be available, costing 1s. 9d. and 2s. 4d. respectively. Only syrup made under the official scheme will bear a label on the bottle stating, "This product conforms to the standard approved by the Ministry of Health." A teaspoonful a day will supply half the vitamin C needs of a child; 5 lb. of the vitamin in this form represents a daily dose for 125,000 children. While black-currant syrup can be made containing 70 mg. of vitamin C per 100 grammes, rose-hip syrup is much richer, containing no less than 200 mg.

Mr. Zachary Cope will deliver a lecture on "Lessons Learnt from Injuries in the Present War" at the Weston Hotel, Bath, on Thursday, February 5, at 5.30 p.m. All Service medical officers and civilian practitioners will be welcome.

A meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will be held at 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on Wednesday, February 11, at 2.30 p.m., when a lecture on "Prescribing in Wartime" will be given by Dr. Philip Hamill, F.R.C.P.

The Royal Sanitary Institute has arranged a sessional meeting at Salford on Saturday, February 14, in the Great Hall of the Royal Technical College. There will be discussions in the morning on some post-war public health problems and on post-war housing development; and in the afternoon on food substitutes and public health, and on the working of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. At a further sessional meeting, to be held on Saturday, February 28, in the Nuffield Institute of Clinical Research, Oxford, at 10 a.m., papers will be read on the storage of emergency drinking supplies, and on the administration of the Government evacuation scheme.

Dr. James Fenton, Medical Officer of Health of the Royal Borough of Kensington, and a past-president of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, has been elected president of the Medical Defence Union.

The December issue of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine* will include the paper on the control of louse-borne typhus fever in Great Britain in the light of experience in Russia, Poland, Rumania, and China, which was read by Dr. Melville Mackenzie of the Ministry of Health at a meeting of the Section of Epidemiology and State Medicine on November 28. Early application is advisable for the limited number of copies that are available, price 2s. 6d. post free, to the editorial office of the Society, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The Minister of Health has sent a letter (Circular 2559) to local authorities saying that he is informed by the Minister of Labour and National Service that it is now necessary to secure information in accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1940, about the men in additional age groups who are likely to be called up for military service and who have a tuberculous history. The Minister therefore requires the appropriate medical officers of health to send forthwith on Form T. 147 the necessary particulars in respect of all male registered persons born in the years 1923 and 1924, and to comply in other respects with the Regulations as affecting these age groups.

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.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles should 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.

ADVERTISEMENTS should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager (hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Orders for copies of the *Journal* and subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary.

TELEPHONE NO.—B.M.A. and *B.M.J.*: EUSTON 2111.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.—EDITOR, *Aitiology Westcent*, London; SECRETARY, *Medisecra Westcent*, London.

B.M.A. SCOTTISH OFFICE: 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Treatment for Threadworms

Sir WILLIAM MACARTHUR, M.D., writes: "Inquirer's" account of his case of enterobiasis (January 24, p. 135) suggests that in spite of his directions the patient is continuing to reinfest herself by the mouth. It may be that she is limiting the special washing of the hands to such obvious occasions as after defaecation and before meals. If so, this is quite insufficient. Since infective ova may be smeared widely over the body surface it is necessary to scrub the hands thoroughly whenever they have come into touch with any part, and whenever an article of clothing which has been in contact with the body is handled. For instance, if the patient changes her stockings when dressing to go out, she must scrub the hands before powdering her face or taking a cigarette. The morning cup of tea, taken before washing, is a potent source of reinfestation. For rectal lavage nothing more elaborate than strong salt-and-water is required. This simple procedure should be carried out by the patient herself every night after the anal irritation has well begun (the consequent undisturbed night will well repay the trouble), and at any other time that it may be felt. An effective method of such lavage by the patient is described in "Pruritus Ani," *British Medical Journal*, August 22, 1931, page 335. The most efficient drug for oral administration appears to be gentian violet, but no treatment of enterobiasis can be satisfactory unless auto-infestation by the mouth is stopped.

Income Tax

E.M.S. Salaried Appointment

R. A.'s inquiries will be sufficiently clear from the following replies.

** (1) A subsistence allowance of £100 receivable in money is assessable. (2) Where the work involves attendance at two hospitals the expense of travelling between them is allowable, but not the expense of travelling between the residence and either of them. (3) Expenses in the form of professional subscriptions are allowable only if membership of the body in question is required by the terms of the appointment. The cost of buying medical books is not allowable.

Results of Air Raids

P. G. H. states that (a) the income of his practice has fallen by 52% of the previous year, and (b) the realizable capital value of his practice can be put at *nil*. Can he make any claim for income-tax allowance?

** (a) He can claim to have his assessment reduced to the amount of the current year's earnings. If his accounts are made up for the year to March 31, 1942, the matter is simple; if they are usually made up to December 31 he may find it convenient to make his claim to adjustment of the assessment on the basis that it should be the aggregate of (i) three-quarters of the earnings for the year to December 31, 1941, and (ii) the amount of the earnings for the quarter to March 31, 1942. (b) This represents a loss of capital, and no claim can be made. *Note*.—P. G. H. can, of course, claim the expenses of replacing professional equipment in so far as it is not covered by insurance.

Appointment—Board and Lodging

P. R. inquires why he should pay income tax on amounts which he does not receive because they are deducted from his salary.

** The point turns on a somewhat fine distinction as between alternative forms of service contract. If the agreement is that the employer shall pay £x and provide board and/or lodging (which we will assume is worth £y for the year), then the employee's income-