

## Letters, Notes, and Answers.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 429, Strand, London, W.C.; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Office, 429, Strand, London, W.C.

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.

ARTHRITIS writes: I am anxious to have some help in the treatment of a troublesome case of rheumatoid arthritis. A slight temperature is running, the right knee and right elbow being affected. The other joints have become practically normal under "sauerin treatment" combined with guaiacol carbonate. I have tried the hot-air baths with no benefit. I should be pleased if some reader would suggest any other line of treatment.

### PLAGUE OF FLIES.

THERE seems to have been this year in many parts of England an unusual number of autumn flies which still survive in the warm rooms of the house, such as the dining-room and kitchen. A correspondent in the North of England, who has tried burning sulphur, formalin, carbolic acid and similar remedies without good results, asks for advice how to get rid of the flies.

### BOTTLE FEEDING AND FLAT CHESTS.

DR. W. J. HENSON (Wedmore) writes: During the last few years, while devoting my spare time to the subject of infant feeding, I have been much struck, when examining candidates for life insurance, etc., with the fact that in every instance that I have been able to elicit the truth the deformed or flat-chested candidate has been bottle-fed as an infant. It seems to me the counteracting suction action on the immature chest wall, when the child is made to suck its food out of a bottle, is bound to draw in the ribs or sternum. When the child is breast-fed it obtains its food by compression and pulling as a cow is milked, with no suction action whatever, so that the infant is able to inflate its lungs whilst feeding, and thus suction muscles are not unduly developed. This undoubtedly accounts for the fact that babies fed in this proper manner have invariably more regular and beautiful features than when the more artificial method is encouraged. This applies to every type of feeding-bottle I know, more or less, except the "Amater," which Messrs. Lowe and Co., of 8, Stafford Street, Old Bond Street, W., had made at my suggestion, and which you noticed in your columns some months ago. I would like to ask those members who have a larger experience in examining for life insurance, etc., to kindly look out for and inquire into the question. I feel sure they would be much struck by the result of such inquiry.

### ANSWERS.

DR. H. J. THORP (Ipswich) writes, in reply to "Hertford," to recommend the following ointment spread on lint:  $\mathcal{R}$  Ung. hyd. fort.  $\mathcal{z}$ ss, ex. bellad.  $\mathcal{z}$ j, ung. sulph.  $\mathcal{z}$ ij, M.

F. B.—The scientific name of the trypanosome in the blood of the freshwater eel (*Anguilla*) is *Trypanosoma granulolum*, Laveran and Mesnil, 1902. Two varieties, *magna* and *parva*, were distinguished by Lebailly in 1905. The most recent descriptions are by Lebailly (*Arch. de Parasitologie*, x, 1905), and Minchin (*Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1908).

### BOOKS FOR THE L.R.C.S. EDIN.

H. J. G. asks what books are required for the L.R.C.S. Edin. (single licence), especially in regard to the anatomy part of the examination.

\*\*The following works would probably meet our correspondent's requirements: *A Textbook of Anatomy*, By D. J. Cunningham, F.R.S. Third Edition. (London: H. Frowde and Hodder and Stoughton. 1909. 31s. 6d.) *Anatomy, Descriptive and Applied*. By H. Gray, F.R.S. Seventeenth Edition, edited by R. Howden, M.A., M.B., C.M. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1909. 32s.) *A Manual of Surgery for Students and Practitioners*. By W. Rose, M.B., B.S. Lond., F.R.C.S., and A. Carless, M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Seventh Edition, *University Series*. (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1908. 21s.) *The Practice of Surgery*. By W. G. Spencer, M.S., M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., and G. E. Gask, F.R.C.S. (London: J. and A. Churchill. 1910. 22s.) *Manual of Surgery*. By A. Thomson, F.R.C.S. Edin., and A. Miles, F.R.C.S. Ed. *Oxford Medical Publications*. In two volumes. Volume I, *General Surgery*; Volume II, *Regional Surgery*. Second Edition. (Edinburgh, Glasgow, and London: H. Frowde and Hodder and Stoughton. 1909. 10s. 6d. each volume.)

### COLLOIDS.

DR. H. OPPENHEIMER (London) writes: "D.G.D." will find an account, by Dr. Max Joseph, of colloids, including colloidal calomel, in *Dermatologisches Zentralblatt*, vol. x.

### AUSTRALIA FOR ASTHMATIC PATIENTS.

F. A. writes: In reply to "L. I. C." (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, November 5th, p. 1480), I resided in Melbourne, Australia, for some years, and remember the case of an old gentleman, a sufferer from asthma, which may be of use. He was compelled to leave Melbourne and live in Ballarat, an elevated country town. While there he was quite free from his complaint, but staying only a single night in Melbourne invariably brought on a recurrence. Melbourne is only a few miles from the sea.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

ERRATA.—In the article by Drs. D. A. Welsh and H. G. Chapman "On the Interpretation of the Precipitin Reaction," in the *JOURNAL* of November 12th, p. 1511, col. 1, line 11 from foot, for "precipitate substance" read "precipitable substance"; col. 2, Table I, under "Volume of Antiserum," No. 7, for "3.0" read "5.0," No. 8, for "3.0" read "5.0."

PRINCE ALEXANDER OF TECK has graciously consented to accept the proceeds from the sale of *Lusus*, a book of verse and prose, by Mr. Christopher Stone, on behalf of the Prince Francis of Teck Memorial Fund for the endowment of the Middlesex Hospital. Copies, price 5s. each (postage 4d. extra), may be obtained from Mrs. Christopher Stone, 177, St. James's Court, Buckingham Gate; from Mr. B. H. Blackwell, the publisher, 51, Broad Street, Oxford; or from Messrs. J. and E. Bumpus, Messrs. Truslove and Hanson, and Messrs. Hatchards, who have kindly undertaken to sell copies for the fund.

### THE AUTOFUME.

WE have recently had an opportunity of examining a new appliance named the "autofume." The object of its construction has been to provide a machine which will burn definite amounts of medicated paper at definite intervals, such amounts and intervals to be variable at will, the consumption being automatic and entirely freed from risk of fire. The final object, of course, is to furnish a method of prolonged fume production for the benefit of persons suffering from asthma, hay fever, and other conditions in which an atmosphere containing special constituents is deemed of value. The mechanism of the appliance is simple, but not easy to describe. We must therefore content ourselves with saying that at given intervals a strip of medicated paper is extruded into the flame of a night-light. Two wheels are supplied with the machine, and each can be geared to work at two speeds. Thus wheel A secures the consumption of 12 inches of medicated paper either every 20 minutes or every 40 minutes as desired. Wheel B effects the consumption of 8 inches of paper every 30 minutes or every 60 minutes. The machine goes on doing its work automatically as long as the night-light lasts. Both from a mechanical and therapeutic point of view the appliance seems to us excellent. It is made by Messrs. Arnold, of West Smithfield, E.C.

### EVENING OPENING OF MEDICAL LIBRARIES.

DR. E. G. L. GOFFE (Tottenham) writes: It seems a pity that there should be, in London, practically no facilities for reading or for research work in a medical library after 7 p.m. The reading room of the British Museum is open up to 10 p.m. at night, and many other public libraries offer the same facilities to the general reader. Why should not the College of Surgeons keep the library open until 10 p.m.? This would be a great convenience to many who have only the evenings free to look up references or to read up a subject.

### EARLY SYMPTOM OF PLAGUE.

DR. JOHN C. THOROWGOOD (Bognor) writes: I observe that Dr. H. P. Sleigh reports how all his patients smitten with plague complained of severe frontal headache as an early symptom. This fact reminds me of the late Sir George Buchanan telling me how, when as resident medical officer at the London Fever Hospital, he was attacked by typhus fever, his most striking symptom was intense frontal headache. Not perhaps a very rare initiatory symptom in the advent of fever, but still it shows the affinity that may exist between genuine typhus and plague.

### SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication, and, if not paid for at the time, should be accompanied by a reference.

NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *postes Restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.