

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

As, owing to printing difficulties, the JOURNAL must be sent to press earlier than hitherto, it is essential that communications intended for the current issue should be received by the first post on Tuesday, and lengthy documents on Monday.

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—of course not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are requested to communicate with the Office, 429, Strand, W.C.2, on receipt of proof.

IN order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL.

THE postal address of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is 429, Strand, London, W.C.2. The telegraphic addresses are:

1. EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, *Attitology, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
2. FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND BUSINESS MANAGER (Advertisements, etc.), *Articulate, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard.
3. MEDICAL SECRETARY, *Medisecra, Westrand, London*; telephone, 2630, Gerrard. The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 16, South Frederick Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone, 4737, Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 6, Rutland Square, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone, 4361, Central).

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

PSYCHICAL TRAINING.

A MEDICAL practitioner, "F. J.," writes: Lord Dawson, during the course of his address published in your issue of October 28th, speaks of the psychical training of children by the aid of rhythm, relaxation exercises, etc. I should be grateful if I could be informed where I could obtain further information on this matter in both practice and literature.

LEFT-HANDEDNESS AND STAMMERING.

DR. C. L. LAPPER (Loughborough) asks for advice in regard to a boy, aged 6 years, who is left-handed from birth. "Ought he to be taught to write with his right hand? Also, is there any 'connexion' between his left-handedness and stammering speech? He has an uncle who is left-handed and has a pronounced stutler. I cannot trace any further family history of left-handedness or stammering."

WARMING THE GARAGE.

"ROVER" writes: May I ask for the experience of motor users with regard to the heating of the garage, thus avoiding the necessity of emptying the radiator every night during the winter. I do not refer to the usual steam-heater radiators, but rather to the type of stoves advertised in the motor papers.

CLIMATE FOR ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS.

"R. B.," a doctor, age 65, suffers from high blood pressure and arterio-sclerosis. He cannot afford to retire. Where—in England—in order to prolong his life is the best place for him to live? What form of light employment could he do?

A STRANGE "WILD-FOWL."

DR. FRANK G. LAYTON (Walsall) writes: The other day a middle-aged woman came into my consulting room very bashfully. Plainly she had something on her mind. She told me she had come on a very funny errand, and she did not like to talk about it. However, I managed at last to persuade her to let me have a look; and then I discovered that whatever it was she had on her mind, there was something entirely tangible on her body. On the front of her abdomen was what looked like a small pedunculated mole. I felt disappointed. It seemed a poor thing to be so bashful about. But when I turned it up with a pair of forceps, and looked at it with a lens, I found four moving legs on each side of a fat brown body, and a black shiny neck. The snout was in the lady's skin. I tried peaceful persuasion, with no luck. The beast refused to let go. Then I chloroformed him. Still he sat tight. Finally I dug his head out with a small pair of scissors, and, unhappily, the beast died and dried up; but the patient became cheerful. It appeared that she had been spending a holiday in Surrey, and that three or four days before her visit to me she noticed something pricking; but she had seen nothing till the day of our interview. Will one of your Surrey readers be kind enough to tell me what it was? For all I know that kind of beast is common in the wilds of the South; but I can find no one in the civilized Midlands who has heard of anything of its sort.

INCOME TAX.

"OXON." is about to buy a one-third share in a practice in which he has been acting as assistant for the past year. Abnormal realization of book debts has swollen the cash receipts so that our correspondent anticipates that he will in the future have to bear his share of an average assessment inflated beyond the then probable yield of the practice.

* * Under Rule 11, Cases I and II, Schedule D, "where a change occurs in a partnership of persons engaged in any . . . profes-

sion . . . the tax payable in respect of the partnership . . . shall be computed according to the profits . . . during the periods . . . prescribed"—that is, during the three years' average—"unless the partners . . . prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioners that the profits have fallen short . . . from some specific cause since such change took place . . . or by reason thereof." We suggest that "Oxon." ask the inspector of taxes whether he agrees that this provision will enable the firm to claim a reduction of the 1923-24 assessment to the profits of the year if they should fall below the amount of the assessment as determined by the past average profits. It appears to us that this claim would be in order, and that it provides an avenue of escape from the hardship which "Oxon." would otherwise suffer.

"K. A. C." is in the employment of a county council and receives an allowance of £250 a year for the use of a car in his work. He calculates that this approximately equals the annual running cost and has claimed the cost of replacing his car as a deduction from his salary.

* * We do not know the precise terms of the council's grant of £250 a year, but in general such allowances are intended to cover all necessary car expenses, including periodical renewal. "K. A. C." is entitled to be assessed on the salary plus allowance after deducting all "expenses incurred wholly exclusively and necessarily in the performance" of his duties, but we apprehend that he will find great difficulty in convincing the income tax authorities that the specific council allowance of £250 is insufficient to cover those expenses. He has, of course, a right of appeal to the General Commissioners for Income Tax of his district.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC

HYPERTROPHY OF THE PROSTATE.

DR. J. REID writes: The common enlargement of old age is due chiefly to increase of the muscular substance. It occurs in about 30 per cent. of men over 60 (Coates's *Manual of Pathology*, 1898). Is fibroid prostate a disease or is it like the muscular arm of the blacksmith? The ergography of the prostate has not been estimated, still less the functional activity of its muscles. The disuse of muscle does not lead to hypertrophy.

NORTHUMBERLAND YEOMANRY.

AN advertisement is published this week asking for information as to Trooper J. L. Pumphrey, Northumberland Yeomanry, who was severely wounded in Polygon Wood on October 24th, 1914. He is supposed to have been sent by the 4th Field Ambulance to the convent school of St. Charles, between Potijze and Verlorenhoek, near Ypres.

THE VIOLATORS OF VACCINATION LAW.

DR. H. P. REYNOLDS, F.R.C.S.E., Public Vaccinator (Upwell, Wisbech), writes: The persons responsible for the thousands of unvaccinated people in Britain are the ignorant people called justices of the peace. A mother gets a vaccination paper for her child and at once rushes off to a J.P. with some cock-and-bull story, and secures without difficulty an order absolving the child from the operation. Every month I come across mothers who pride themselves on their cleverness; I tell them the time will come when they will regret their silly action.

MOTOR CAR SHOW IN LONDON: A CORRECTION.

THE price of the 23-60-h.p. Vauxhall-Kington open touring car, referred to in the article on the Motor Car Show in London (November 4th, p. 879), is £895, and not £1,150 as printed.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 34, 35, 38, 39, and 40 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 36 and 37.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 191.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

	£	s.	d.
Six lines and under	0 9 0
Each additional line	0 1 6
Whole single column (three columns to page)	7 10 0
Half single column	3 15 0
Half page	10 0 0
Whole page	20 0 0

An average line contains six words.

All remittances by Post Office Orders must be made payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 429, Strand, London, not later than the first post on Tuesday 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 *poste restante* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.