

The closely related *Demodex folliculorum* lives in animal glands and amongst animal cells which may lose their power of resistance owing to chronic irritation or other cause. Is it not probable that the demodex may cause these cells to revert to a more primitive—an embryonic type? That these primitive cells, growing and multiplying out of their proper time and place, may run amok amongst the surrounding tissues and so cause cancer?

This suggestion I offer for what it is worth. It opens an avenue for investigation which, as far as I know, has not yet been explored.—I am, etc.,

London, W., Sept. 23rd.

J. McNAMARA, M.D.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA.

SIR,—A question of vital importance to the advancement of medical education in India seems to have been discussed at a meeting of the Bombay University Senate. A number of students have been refused admission by the Dean of the Grant Medical College to the Intermediate M.B., B.S. class, the reason of the refusal being lack of clinical accommodation, especially in the midwifery wards. The latter difficulty seems to have been created by the British Medical Council's rule, lately introduced in India, that every student must attend twenty labour cases during his period of training for a medical degree.

In my opinion this is very hard in a country where the generality of women do not prefer to see male medical attendants and where the demand for duly qualified medical men is increasing every year. In my time we had to conduct six cases per student and were none the worse for that. I remember how some of us were anxious to have some more cases than their due quota, but were not allowed that indulgence.

If at all at the instance of the General Medical Council a greater number of confinement cases has to be done now by every student, and if there be not sufficient accommodation in the central teaching hospital, I am sure the Dean of the Grant Medical College can increase the available accommodation by seeking co-operation with other institutions. Besides the Cama Hospital for Women and the Persee Lying-in Hospital there are other private, semi-private, and public hospitals which could easily make teaching accommodation for a number of students every year according to the number of their beds. Allowing more students to witness the same case at the same time under suitable circumstances should also ease the situation in a perceptible manner.

In England the students can go out to attend at the patients' houses in order to finish their twenty cases. Feminine sentiment being so different in India from that in England, it will be a matter of many more years, if not decades, before Indian students can enjoy the same facilities in this direction as their British fellow students. It should be within the bounds of justice and fair play if the General Medical Council would consider the difficulties of Indian medical students in this direction, and fix the number of labour cases to be done by each student at a reasonable figure as permitted by circumstances prevalent in different parts of India, without enforcing undue harshness on the students and without starving medical education in India, at least till a suitable increase in the existing accommodation at the teaching hospitals is made as intended.—I am, etc.,

London, S.E., Sept. 4th.

A. D. JILLA.

** Our information with regard to the position in Bombay is not quite recent, but we believe some of the statements made by our correspondent to be out of date. We hope to recur to the matter shortly, and meanwhile would invite readers to suspend judgement.

SPIRITUAL HEALING.

SIR,—In the correspondence on this subject in the JOURNAL and elsewhere, it seems to be taken for granted that should the claims made be substantiated—namely, that organic diseases have been healed by the methods used—the hypothesis of spiritual healing is unassail-

able, so that a scientific explanation becomes impossible.

Whilst supporting your correspondents in their desire for the establishment of an exact diagnosis in these cases, I suggest that should they prove to be instances of organic disease an explanation will still be possible inside the domain of science. It may be necessary to enlarge certain biological concepts just as on many earlier occasions new facts have entailed readjustments in biology and in the physical sciences.

As to what that new hypothesis shall be—let us first get the facts as accurately as possible. A scientific understanding will obviously be no more in conflict with religion if the cases prove to be organic than if they prove to be non-organic in origin.—I am, etc.,

London, N.W., Sept. 24th.

M. D. EDER.

HIPPOCRATES.

SIR,—Mr. W. H. Jones's interpretation of the *Corpus* of Hippocrates, as quoted in your issue of September 15th, 1923 (pp. 481-482), may be admirable, but his scholarship seems scarcely in keeping with the high standard that has hitherto characterized the Loeb classics. Is there any doubt as to the correctness of Professor Sticker's distinction between the meanings of *πόνος* and *ὀδύνη*?—a distinction rigidly maintained throughout classical Greek.

Πόνος primarily means "work, hard work, toil, labour," mostly "toil of war," but also "bodily exertion, hard exercise." Its secondary meaning is "the consequence of such toil, distress, trouble, suffering, pain." *ὀδύνη* is always used to express "pain of body" and "pain or anguish of mind," and, further, is exclusively employed for "the pains of childbirth."

I have not read the passages in which the two words occur, and I admit that Mr. Jones's words are, "they seem practically synonymous," but, as Professor Sticker rightly points out, Hippocrates used words whose meanings were recognized and accepted throughout Hellas, and gives to every word its particular primary connotation.—I am, etc.,

Esher, Surrey, Sept. 21st.

HERBERT E. GRAY.

PAY OF THE R.A.M.C.

SIR,—The pay of married officers in the Army Medical Service is inadequate. The expenses in the army to a married man are totally different to civil life. As it is impossible to get unfurnished houses, he will have to live in a furnished one, which will mean a rent of £150 to £200 per annum. He will get on an average a change of station every eighteen months, and though the Government pay fare and move baggage, other items inseparable where there is a family are not considered. Very short notice of a move is given, necessitating taking another house with probably several months of the lease of the vacated one still to run, and unable to sublet. A short time ago I was paying 4 guineas and 3 guineas a week for two months.

The specialist's pay of 5s. per diem is a farce; under the new regulations he will actually get 2s. 1d. per diem, and the 2s. 6d. per diem is reduced to 5d., which seems a poor reward for special knowledge in a particular subject.

Promotion is very slow, and for the majority of majors almost hopeless. There is no rise of pay after fifteen years until promoted, and this in the future will work out at about twenty-six years. The pension, which before the war was £365 per annum after twenty years' service, is now about £400, which hardly represents the increased cost of living.

Added to all this the R.A.M.C. is rapidly becoming a foreign service; the home tour is becoming shorter and shorter, bringing with it the usual problems of family separations, education of children, etc., and little or no compensation in the way of increased pay. I enclose my card.—I am, etc.,

September 24th.

MAJOR R.A.M.C.