LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS.

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OUESRNS AND ANSWERS.

"SYMINGTON" asks if any of his professional brethren can assist him in tracing the cause of a dermatitis that occurs in his hands in the spring and summer, and he feels that between his fingers, followed by intolerable itching, papules, and small vesicles, which become pustules, then lymphangitis and cellulitis, and he feels that this seems to defy all remedies. He has been called out, rheumatism, neuritis, etc., by specialists. He understands that it has affected other medical men.

PHTHOSIC CANCER: REMISSION OF SYMPTOMS.

Mr. A. P. BENTWELL (London, W.1) writes: In reply to "Wicklow's" inquiry in the Journal of September 13th (p. 455), two possibilities occur to me as regards the case recorded; only an operation would clinch the diagnosis. In the first place the case may be one of benign gastric neoplasm; the Mayo Clinic states that 20 per cent. of gastric tumours are benign. A polypus in the pyloric canal would cause spasmatic pain in the stomach, gaseous eruptions, loss of weight by starvation, possibly the anemia and malnutrition. It is a "filling defect" on radiographic examination identical with that of a cancer. In the second case, is the one of gastric polyphus? Since these cases do not occur often, referring to the above, little is known of them, though there is considerable literature on them in France, and Carman mentions them in his work on radiology.

ANHYDROSIS AND ABSCESS.

Dr. R. H. THOMSON (Uphall, West Lothian) writes: In reply to Dr. Johnston McNaib's inquiry on September 13th (p. 450), I have had three cases similar to those reported by Dr. A. Remington on September 23rd (p. 504), as the result of using a well-known and much-advertised proprietary depilatory. One patient was especially ill, being confined to bed for fully three months. High temperature and rapid pulse continued, even after the abscesses had been induced and drained. I feared that general septicemia might ensue; however, the patient made a slow but good recovery.

INCOME TAX.

"G. L. B." points out that the forms now being issued require taxpayers to state whether their houses are occupied solely as private residence in the absence of their professions, and that this seems to defy all purposes. Will that fact affect the valuation to be made for income tax, Schedule A?

"No." is the authorities desire to have all particulars of the premises as possible, but the basis of valuation is the letting value in open market, and the purpose for which the premises are used seems immaterial, it indicates some special site value.

Payment of Capital by Instalments.

T. S. has purchased a share in a partnership on terms which allow him to disclose that no capital has been invested; the principal being a party of principal and partly of interest on the principal outstanding. Can he deduct the amount of interest for income tax purposes?

**"** The interest should be specifically shown as deductions in the statement of total income from all sources in the space provided for "charges on income." But "T. S." will have to pay tax at the standard rate on that interest. On the other hand, when he pays the interest, he should deduct tax from it at the standard rate, so that in the end the tax will have been suffered by the recipient of the interest and not by himself—of course, the proper result.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

PASTEURIZATION AND MILK-BORNE EPIDEMICS.

Mr. P. B. Tustin, technical adviser to United Dairies, Ltd., and formerly chief of Food and Dairy Division, City of Winnipeg, writes: I note in your issue of August 16th (p. 259) an article on the subject of pasteurization of milk in an article referring to the report of Dr. A. J. Douglas, medical officer of health for Winnipeg. This expert states: "Experts in the field of milk sanitation where adequate precautions have been taken pasteurization is needless." There have been three recent milk-borne epidemics in Great Britain. The paratyphoid outbreak in Kent, due to raw cream, the outbreak of sickness among Leeds school children was traced to raw milk, and the outbreak of septic sore throat at Brighton was due to raw milk. Dr. T. R. J., medical officer of health for Brighton, points out in his annual report for 1929 that in his view pasteurization of milk is the only designated method which gives protection to consumers. I know of no milk-borne epidemic in this country that has been traced to properly pasteurized milk or cream. The figures in the official report of the British Dairy and Cheese Board, compiled by the principal officers, are as follows: During the 1926-7 season, cases of paratyphoid in milk-borne epidemics, including outbreaks of typhoid, paratyphoid, septic sore throat, scarlet fever, dysentery, jaundice, gastro-enteritis, and meningitis, are as follows: In 1926-7, 68 deaths; in 1927-8, 56 deaths; all reported as caused by raw milk; 1 of septic sore throat at Hamden, Conn., due to certified milk. 1927-8, 36 epidemics, 162 cases, 41 deaths. 1928-9, 42 epidemics, 310 cases, 94 deaths; all reported as caused by raw milk, none to pasteurized milk.

PREGNANCY AND CERTIFICATION.

Dr. D. C. Murray Page (Pittenweem, Fifeshire) writes: In connection with the note from "H. B." on "Pregnancy and Certification" (Journal, September 23rd, p. 504) may I relate my sole experience regarding this matter. In July a married panel patient asked to be signed on the panel, since she was seven months pregnant, and her income agent told her that she was entitled to benefit. She was quite fit, and working away in the house and baking pies every day. I told her that if she did not want the benefit, she was entitled to benefit, but that I would not sign her to the Scottish Board of Health for advice. In his reply the Secretary to the Department of Health for Scotland said that no work was an entitlement. This is not an isolated case, but the receipt of sickness or disablement benefit as a matter of right prior to confinement. These benefits could only be had if there was incapacity for work, and that condition must be satisfied in every case. The society's agent had misinformed the injured party, and I understand that he was properly dealt with by his superiors.

UNOFFICIAL AUNTS.

Mrs. E. W. Hardy (Darley Avenue, W. Didbury, Manchester) writes: In reply to the Voluntary Officers' Weekly Club: "Help in the following and similar ways: (1) To stay in the house in charge of children to enable the parents to go out together for a walk or to sit. (2) To care for the children while the mother is at work. (3) To play with the children and so occasionally give relief to the one in charge. (4) To be prepared to send to those "aunts" unable to do outside work. The "V. O. C." are purely voluntary workers, anxious to help, but not qualified in any way. The short cut no vagrant posts notified in their best to be of service, although, of course, they are not prepared to replace ordinary domestic labour or trained nursing. Anyone desiring to help, or to be helped, should apply to me.

CORRIGENDA.

We regret that the concluding remarks by Mr. John F. O'Malley in the discussion on this subject before the Section of Radiology at Winnipeg were inadvertently recorded in the Journal of September 23rd (p. 544). The correct remarks follow: "He had pointed out some four years ago that in the human females at two weeks the epiglottis was in the nasopharynx, which was the position in the animal glottis, and such animals had no difficulty in swallowing without any falling over of the epiglottis." In one report of the discussion on functional disorders of the calf on September 29th, 1926, Dr. A. G. E. Smith of Derby was incorrectly described as coming from London.

VACANCIES.

NOTIFICATIONS of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and some abstracts in the advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and secretaries at pages 58, 59, and 60. The summary of these columns appears in the advertisement columns as they are received.