

An extra meeting of the Section of Tropical Diseases and Parasitology of the Royal Society of Medicine will be held at 1, Wimpole Street, W., on Monday, November 25th, at 8.30 p.m., when Dr. Magarinos Torres of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute, Rio de Janeiro, will deliver in English a Lloyd Roberts Lecture entitled "Further Studies on the Pathology of Alastrim and Their Significance in the Variola-Alastrim Problem."

The Fellowship of Medicine announces the following courses: venereal diseases, at London Lock Hospital, November 18th to December 14th; infants' diseases, at Infants Hospital, November 25th to December 7th; proctology, at St. Mark's Hospital, November 25th to November 30th; and dermatology, at Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, Blackfriars, S.E., November 25th to December 7th. A week-end course will be given at Brompton Hospital on November 30th and December 1st, and there will be a special course in thoracic surgery at the same hospital from December 2nd to 6th. For M.R.C.P. candidates there will be an evening clinical and pathological course at National Temperance Hospital, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 8 p.m., from November 26th to December 12th; chest diseases at Brompton Hospital on two days a week at 5 p.m., from December 9th to January 10th (excluding Christmas week); chest and heart diseases at City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, Victoria Park, E., two days a week, at 6 p.m., from December 9th to January 10th (excluding Christmas week). Full information may be obtained from the Fellowship, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

November 22nd is the last date of entry for the course in infants' diseases, arranged for medical officers of welfare centres and others interested in nutritional disorders and dietetics, to be given at the Infants Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W., from November 25th to 30th and December 2nd and 6th. Particulars may be obtained from the Fellowship of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W.1.

The ninth annual Congress of Radiology will be held at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., on December 4th, 5th, and 6th. In association with the congress an exhibition of x-ray apparatus will be held in the same building, under the auspices of the British x-ray industry, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The twelfth International Medical Tour, organized by the Société Médicale du Littoral Méditerranéen, will take place from December 26th to January 4th. All the resorts of the French Riviera, from St. Raphaël to Mentone, will be visited, as well as the hinterland. Receptions and scientific demonstrations have been organized, and special reductions have been granted by the railway companies and the hotels. Particulars can be had from the Société Médicale, 24, Rue Verdi, Nice (A.M.), and the French National Touring Office, 56, Haymarket, London, S.W.1.

Following the lectures on health and the law delivered last spring under the auspices of the Jewish Health Organization, a further series of ten lectures will be given on Saturdays, at 8.30 p.m., at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, High Street, Whitechapel, E., from November 23rd, 1935, to January 25th, 1936, both dates inclusive. The opening lecture on ante-natal care will be delivered by Dame Louise McIlroy. Dr. Reginald Jewesbury will lecture on the care of the infant in the first two years of life; Dr. Bernard Myers on the physical and mental welfare of the pre-school child; Dr. M. D. Eder on the care of the child in relation to his studies; Dr. H. Harris on play in childhood; Mrs. Susan Isaacs on the mental welfare of the child; Mrs. Winifred Raphael on the welfare of the worker; Professor V. H. Mottram on domestic hygiene; Mr. Phineas Quass on the protection of the worker; and Professor Samson Wright on the care of the adolescent. Admission is free, without ticket.

The following medical men were elected mayors on November 9th: Dr. H. G. Wood-Hill (Beccles), Dr. J. R. MacMahon (Poole), Dr. O. Wynne Griffith (Pwllheli), Dr. J. Wood (Brighouse), Sir Richard Luce (Romsey), and Dr. D. Arnott (Shaftesbury). Dr. H. B. Fletcher

of Dronfield was elected an alderman at a meeting of the Derbyshire County Council on November 6th, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Dr. G. G. Macdonald of Crich.

The names of two other members of the medical profession have been brought to our notice as candidates at the General Election on November 14th. Mr. J. D. Cooke stood as Conservative candidate for the Hammer-smith (South) constituency, and Lieut.-Colonel W. C. Ross, I.M.S.(ret.), as Liberal candidate for the Withington Division of Manchester.

H. K. Lewis & Co. Ltd. announce for early publication: *Milk: Production and Control*, by W. Clunie Harvey, M.D., and H. Hill; *The Principles and Practice of X-Ray Therapy*, by Ffrangcon Roberts, M.D.; and a third edition of Roxburgh's *Common Skin Diseases*.

At its meeting on October 14th the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris, on the proposal of Dr. J. Comby, paid homage to Sir Thomas Barlow, their corresponding member, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

A fully equipped unit of the British Ambulance Service in Ethiopia, consisting of four doctors, five orderlies, and transport personnel, will sail under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society to-day (Saturday, November 16th) by s.s. *Sudan* and *Rampura* for Berbera, where it will be joined by twenty-four trained African dressers recruited from Kenya and Uganda. This unit will proceed to the Ogaden war zone. A few days later the British Red Cross Society will send a small unit of two doctors and transport officers with medical stores via the Sudan to the northern war zone, which is at present entirely without medical aid. This second unit will be reinforced later. The donations in response to appeals for funds for Red Cross help for Abyssinia, which have come from all over England and Scotland, and from Ceylon and Uganda, amount to about £22,000. Further contributions are urgently required, and may be sent to Sir Arthur Stanley, British Red Cross Society, 14, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.

## 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. Correspondents who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names, not necessarily for publication.

Authors desiring REPRINTS of their articles published in the *British Medical Journal* must communicate with the Financial Secretary and Business Manager, British Medical Association 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.

All communications with reference to ADVERTISEMENTS, as well as orders for copies of the *Journal*, should be addressed to the Financial Secretary and Business Manager.

The TELEPHONE NUMBER of the British Medical Association and the *British Medical Journal* is EUSTON 2111 (internal exchange, five lines).

The TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES are

EDITOR OF THE *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, *Aitiology Westcent, London.*

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The address of the Irish Office of the British Medical Association is 18, Kildare Street, Dublin (telegrams: *Bacillus, Dublin*; telephone: 62550 Dublin), and of the Scottish Office, 7, Drumshough Gardens, Edinburgh (telegrams: *Associate, Edinburgh*; telephone: 24361 Edinburgh).

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

### Switzerland for Asthma

"R. S. T." asks for information as to the best part of Switzerland for a holiday for a chronic case of asthma in a girl of 20; the best way of getting there; the cost of living—for example, in a recommended hotel; and the amount of relief that may reasonably be expected.

**Tinnitus**

Dr. S. A. MONTGOMERY (Bournemouth) writes in reply to "H. H. G." (*Journal*, November 2nd, p. 884): On the treatment of tinnitus I would refer him to Watkyn-Thomas and Yates's recent work on *Otology*, published by Lewis, 1932. Well-marked tinnitus of long standing is apt to be difficult, if not impossible, to cure. Having ruled out toxic, inflammatory, and local defects, it may be found that the newer method of alcohol injection into the nerve may effect relief for quite a considerable time. Section of the nerve itself may not stop the noises. It should not escape notice that these "head noises" are sometimes regarded by the unfortunate sufferer as a sign of incipient insanity, though he may seldom admit it even to his medical adviser. This idea must be combated. As a palliative I have found the exhibition of the following useful: nux vomica 1 drachm, diluted hydrobromic acid 1/2 oz., potassium bromide 2 to 4 drachms, syrup of lemon and chloroform water to 8 oz., giving 1/2 oz. doses twice daily before meals and again at bedtime. It is well to advise the sufferer to try to ignore the noises as much as possible, and to cultivate some hobby.

**Income Tax****Replacement of Car—Succession to Firm**

"J. A." bought a car for £225 in March, 1933, and sold it in July, 1935, for £85, buying another car for £185. What allowance is due on the "renewal" basis, and would it have been better to have claimed "depreciation"? His partner left the practice in March, 1935, and "J. A." is now carrying on the practice himself; how does this affect the basis of assessment, and how will it be affected if he takes a new partner?

\*\* The cost of renewal was £100—that is, the out-of-pocket expenditure—and that amount can be treated as a professional expense of the year 1935, thereby reducing the amount of the liability for 1936-7. As the old car cost more than the new one, it would have been better to claim the "depreciation" and "obsolescence allowances"—which would save tax on £225 - £185 = £40, and "J. A." can claim to reopen the assessment for 1934-5 onwards accordingly—provided that a renewal claim was not made in respect of the car bought in 1933. Unless "J. A." and his former partner join in requiring the practice to be regarded as having ceased at the date of the latter's withdrawal from the practice the basis of the assessment is not affected. Consequently "J. A." will have to bear tax on his additional share of the assessment from March, 1935, onwards, but as the basis of calculation of the assessment remains unaltered no period can be brought in more than once.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.****Request for Pathological Material**

Dr. G. GORDON LENNON (Department of Surgery, Marischal College, Aberdeen) writes: I should be obliged if you would convey through the *British Medical Journal* my desire to obtain post mortem a pituitary (including most of its stalk) from a known case of diabetes insipidus. Should any pathologist perform a post-mortem on such a case I should be very grateful to him if I may have it sent to the above address for examination of certain conditions in which I am interested.

**Faecal Impaction**

Dr. C. CARRICK BREWIS (Yeovil) sends the following note, which he heads "*Impacted Faeces: An Amazing Cause*": I was called urgently to see Mrs. X., on account of acute abdominal pain, vomiting, and constipation lasting two days. On arrival I asked her to show me where the pain was. She placed her hand in the region of the perineum. On inspection I found the posterior wall of the vagina bulging through the vulva. Rectal examination revealed a large mass, consisting of small hard particles completely filling the pelvic cavity. It was easy to produce some of these, which proved to be bits of Indian corn. My district nurse, with her trusty enema, soon delivered the patient of nearly 2 lb. of maize! The patient is a "glover," and sits all day at a machine. For some years she has been in the habit of filling her pocket with this chicken food, just quietly pecking away at it while at work. The seeds were bitten into halves and swallowed without chewing.

**Dried Milk Standards**

Cow & Gate Ltd. have issued a pamphlet setting out the standards aimed at in the preparation of their products. Thus "Selected Standards for Milk Foods in Infant Feeding" is in the first place a series of statements of the ideals to be attempted and then a recital of the claims made for the Cow & Gate foods in relation to such standards. This well-known British milk needs no introduction at this stage of its popularity, and if some are inclined to criticize the cost (an aspect not touched upon in the pamphlet) it is clear from the details set out that the public is being asked to pay for a well-selected, pure product. The numerous special brands of Cow & Gate available must also obviously add to the general cost of production. The matter here presented in an attractive form should lead many to take advantage of the invitation extended to all doctors to visit the factories at Guildford.

**Diphtheria Immunization**

Dr. F. O. TAYLOR (Coldingham, Berwickshire) writes: In answer to Dr. A. R. Eates's last point (*Journal*, November 9th, p. 932) I should like to state that there was an unprecedented epidemic of diphtheria in this country last year, and most of the immunization done was long after most of the cases had been notified. In fact, the increase in "immunizings" kept pace with or followed upon the increase of cases. To put this the wrong way round is unfair, and shows how statistics can be falsified to meet a certain point of view. The epidemic fizzled out at about the time the campaign of immunization became general—very much later than many of us would have liked.

**Haematemesis in Infancy**

Dr. P. G. DOOLEY (Ilford) writes: I have been much interested in the recent correspondence in the *Journal* relating to cases of haematemesis in the newborn. The case described by Dr. R. Force-Jones (October 19th) would clinically appear to justify a diagnosis of gastric ulcer. It is true that in these cases punched-out ulcers have been found post mortem in the stomach, duodenum, and oesophagus, while the pathology strongly suggests that the site of the "ulcer" is due to the digestion and absorption of the necrosed area caused by the original haemorrhage. Melaena and jaundice may of course occur singly or together in these cases. It is possible that in this case, and also in the case mentioned by Dr. J. S. Coleman (November 9th), we are dealing with manifestations of the same underlying process—a too rapid haemolysis, due to relative deficiency of iron. From the therapeutic angle there appear to be several methods of dealing with these conditions. I recently had a case of twins, one of whom died immediately after birth, while the other, a rather weakly infant, had several attacks of melaena on the second day. Almost at once a severe generalized oedema appeared, and the infant's condition seemed hopeless. The mother was not in a position to spare any blood, and it was decided to use horse serum in the form of an intramuscular injection of 4,000 units of anti-diphtheria serum. The result was gratifying in so far as the symptoms disappeared and the infant began to recover. These cases, to my mind, illustrate the importance of adequate diet in the prospective mother and the giving of suitable forms of iron ante-natally where any doubt exists in regard to the food factor.

**"Worcester" Scholarships**

Two scholarships in reduction of fees will be awarded for entry to the Thames Nautical Training College, H.M.S. Worcester, Greenhithe, Kent, at the Lent term, beginning January 16th, 1936. The scholarships are valued at £50 per annum, tenable for two years, and successful candidates will be trained for a career as executive officers in the Merchant Navy. Candidates must be aged 15 or 16, and will have to undergo an examination in school subjects. Applications must be received before December 7th, and full conditions governing the awards and forms of application are obtainable from the Secretary, Ingress Abbey, Greenhithe, Kent.

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 61 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 58 and 59.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 224.