

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Facial Eruption

Dr. GLADYS MONTGOMERY (Auckland, New Zealand) writes: I would be very grateful for any suggestions with regard to the treatment of a troublesome facial skin condition. The sweat glands seem to be overactive, and unless under constant treatment the face is disfigured with countless little cream pin-points of greasy-looking secretion. These actually become so offensive in odour as to be an annoyance to the patient. At intervals the face shows a marked, blotchy, acne-like eruption. The skin is never smooth; the enlarged sweat-gland openings give it a coarse appearance. The electric needle has been suggested, but the specialist did not guarantee a cure. Astringent and stimulating lotions have been applied.

Income Tax

Expense of Locumtenent

"**FAITHLIE**" employs his son as locumtenent, and has claimed to deduct £2 2s. per week for cost of maintenance. The inspector of taxes refuses to allow more than £1 1s. per week, on the ground that no *additional* cost is incurred in connexion with the general expenses of the establishment.

** The fact that the locumtenent is the son of the practitioner makes no difference, and the inspector's argument would be equally effective or otherwise in normal circumstances. He takes his stand on the ground that only additional costs can be allowed—that is, expenses which would not be incurred if the locumtenent were not resident on the professional premises. In our view that is fallacious; the true basis is the proper sharing of the general household expenses throughout the year. Suppose, for example, that the agreed ratio of private to professional use is half and half, and that the practitioner takes a month's holiday. During that month the practitioner is deriving comparatively little benefit from his establishment, but is still debited with half cost in the accounts. That is correct; but only so long as the expense of providing the locumtenent takes into account not only "additional" expense, but also a reasonable ratio of the general cost of maintenance of the establishment. Otherwise the Revenue would be "getting it both ways."

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

The Lonely Underpaid Woman Worker

Consider Her Palaces, by Miss Rosamond Tweedy, is "a study of the housing problem of lower-paid single women workers in London." This booklet is published at sixpence by the Over Thirty Association (109, Great Russell Street, W.C.1), of which the author is organizing secretary, in the hope of

stimulating the authorities to make some better provision for this type of worker in new housing schemes. In a short introduction Sir Ernest Simon, who has done so much to improve housing conditions in Manchester, points out that this aspect of the problem has so far been completely neglected. The living conditions of 239 women in middle life, all entirely dependent on an earned income averaging 35s. a week, formed the subject of a special inquiry. The majority of these women were clerical workers, some of them University graduates, but manual workers were also included. The greater number lived in single rooms, chiefly in the central districts of London, rooms which too often were dilapidated, inconvenient, and depressing, and for which the rental was unduly high in proportion to the occupant's income. The author comes to the conclusion that the provision of one-room flatlets for this type of worker, at a reasonably low rental, subsidized either by the State or by local bodies, is an urgent necessity. The possession of a home, however modest, would greatly ameliorate the living conditions of these women, whose lot is often undeservedly hard.

Radiography

Kodak X-Ray Manual (London, Kodak Ltd., 1936) is a useful little production, not a catalogue of apparatus, but a treatise in short compass on the theory and practice of radiography. There are chapters on the x-ray generating apparatus, exposure factors, and shadow formation, and then some more specific instruction on the use of intensifying screens, the handling of film, the design of the dark room (with a plea for light and cheerful colours for the walls, not the psychologically depressing black or red), the process of development, and the viewing of the radiograph. The text is assisted by some excellent diagrams conveying instruction on the physics of the subject, often so difficult to grasp without this aid. Frequent reference is made, naturally, to Kodak productions, but all radiographers, and radiologists too, whatever materials and accessories they use, will find many practical suggestions in these chapters.

Empire Health Week

The Health and Cleanliness Council has issued a poster entitled "The Safe Way to Health," which is intended for wide distribution during Empire Health Week, October 4th to 10th. A limited number of specimen copies are available, and application should be made to the Council at 5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

Medical Missionaries

In the Educational Number of the *Journal* (September 5th, p. 492) we drew attention to the urgent need for medical men and women in the mission fields abroad. We are asked to state that full information on this matter can be obtained from the secretaries of the various missionary societies, from the Recruiting Secretary, Student Christian Movement, Annandale, North End Road, N.11, or from the secretary of the Conference of British Missionary Societies, 2, Eaton Gate, S.W.1.

London College of Dietetics Ltd.: A Disclaimer

Lord Horder desires it to be known that he is not a member of the Advisory Council of the London College of Dietetics Ltd., and is not in any manner interested in or concerned with this organization.

The Theory of Emulsions: A Correction

We regret that the number of pages and the price were wrongly stated in the footnote to the review of Dr. William Clayton's book, *The Theory of Emulsions and their Technical Treatment*, which appeared in our issue of September 12th (p. 540). The book consists of 458 pages and is published at 25s.; not at 12s. 6d.

Corrigendum

Glaxo Laboratories Ltd. ask us to correct an error in the advertisement they supplied and which appeared in our issue of September 12th. The iron content of ostermilk No. 2 was described as being "five pints per million" instead of "five parts per million."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 58 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 56 and 57.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 179.