

Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, visited the Tyneside district on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, and Carlisle on Thursday. On Monday he was the guest of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House at Newcastle. After addressing representatives of local authorities at the Newcastle County Hall he inspected the work of local authorities at Wallsend, Jarrow, Hebburn, Felling, and Gateshead. On Wednesday morning he visited hospitals, housing estates, and other institutions in Newcastle, and in the afternoon opened the municipal clinic at South Shields.

With the September issue the *Journal of the Institute of Hygiene* ceases to appear as a separate publication and becomes merged with the *Journal of State Medicine*. The new journal will appear on October 1 under the title of the *Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene*.

September 30 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the death of the famous German surgeon, Bernhard von Langenbeck, the founder of the German Society of Surgery.

The death is announced of Mr. A. P. Molteno, who in 1919, with his wife, made a gift of £36,000 for building and equipping the Molteno Institute for Research in Parasitology and Biology at Cambridge. The institute, under the direction of Professor G. H. F. Nuttall, F.R.S., was opened at the end of 1921 by Lord Buxton, late Governor-General of South Africa.

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.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

A.P.T. with Anti-diphtheritic Serum

Dr. W. L. ENGLISH writes: We get a number of throats which clear up immediately with 4,000 units of serum (anti-diphtheritic). How far is it legitimate to give a dose of A.P.T. at the same time as the prophylactic dose of serum?

Buccal and Lingual Ulcers

Dr. ALICE JOHNSON (Wimbledon, S.W.19) writes: In answer to "Puzzled" (*Journal*, September 11, p. 564), I have found Chesbrough's mentholated vaseline spread over the ulcer two or three times a day of great use.

Dr. L. FORMAN (London, W.1) writes: Recurrent painful ulcers of the mouth have been described in association with agranulocytosis, which may occur spontaneously, or with the periods, or may be produced by a drug containing pyrimidon. To

detect rhythmical agranulocytosis it is necessary to examine the blood one or two days before the period is due. Erythema multiforme of the mouth also produces blisters which rupture, leaving superficial ulcers. In some cases small doses of streptococcal vaccine given intradermally—for example, 2 millions at weekly intervals—may be useful.

Mr. CHARLES E. SALTER (Exmouth) writes: I have found ultimate relief in this troublesome condition by giving thyromang (gr. 1/2 and gr. 1/8) biperlatinoids (Oppenheimer) night and morning, preceded by half a tumbler of water and followed by a whole tumbler in fifteen minutes, for two to three months continuously.

Medical Treatment for Dupuytren's Contracture

"NADAUD" asks what treatment he can offer to a "small" patient for Dupuytren's contracture other than operation, and whether fibrolysin and iodolysin fulfilled their early promise.

Ultra-violet Irradiation

Dr. F. HOWARD HUMPHRIS writes: The points raised in this question (*Journal*, August 28, p. 438) cannot be answered satisfactorily in a few lines. Ultra-violet light has been used extensively for the treatment of health and for the maintenance of it. Properly administered it is likely to be of great assistance to those who are run down and over-worked, but otherwise in normal health. There is no objection to its frequent use over a period of years provided dosage is more or less accurate and it is administered at properly spaced intervals. "Ultra-violet" should consult one of the many books on the subject.

Cancrum Oris

Dr. J. B. C. MADGE (Shipton Thorpe, York) writes with reference to the letter on cancrum oris in the *Journal* of August 28 (p. 438): Similar lesions are often caused by yaws or bubas, which is protean in its manifestations. Bishop Bere of the Umka Mission wrote a poem in 1888 on the subject.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

"Rheumatic" and "Rheumatism"

Sir FRANK FOX, Secretary of the Empire Rheumatism Council, writes from London: Dr. George S. Banks of Aberdeen (*Journal*, August 7, p. 306) is to be congratulated on his zeal for the purity of the English language. He will be pleased to note that the Empire Rheumatism Council is not guilty of the error to which he calls attention; its title is *not* Empire Rheumatic Council.

Anti-dazzle Regulations

Readers are reminded that under the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations, 1936, the new anti-dazzle regulations made by the Minister of Transport in April, 1936, come into force on October 3, from which date no head lamp may be used on any vehicle unless the beam of light emitted therefrom is either (1) permanently deflected downwards; (2) capable of being deflected downwards, or both downwards and to the left, at the will of the driver; (3) extinguishable by a device which substitutes a dipped light; or (4) extinguishable by a device which at the same time either deflects the beam of light from another lamp downwards, or both downwards and to the left, in such a manner as to render it incapable of dazzling at a distance of twenty-five feet any person whose eye level is not less than 3 feet 6 inches from the ground. The regulation does not apply to any head lamp fitted with an electric bulb if the power of the bulb does not exceed 7 watts and the lamp is fitted with frosted glass or other material which has the effect of diffusing the light.

Action of Meat Extracts

Dr. A. CRAWFORD (Bermondsey, S.E.) writes: The report of Dr. Boon's work on the action of meat extract in the *Journal* of August 28 (p. 412) is interesting. In view of his finding that meat extract increases the hydrochloric acid and that beef powder was the only substance examined to stimulate the excretion of pepsin, one wonders if a cold expressed beef juice, which contains coagulable protein and meat extractives, has the effect of increasing both hydrochloric acid and pepsin. I find that vague dyspepsias of the atonic fermentative type improve when a little beef juice is taken immediately before meals.