

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Hypertrichosis

"E. C." would like suggestions for treatment of hair on chin in a lady of 30. She has had electrolysis twice at a beauty parlour with no benefit. A radiologist does not advise x rays. Is there any centre in London or the provinces for treatment of such cases?

"Typhoid Mary"

DR. J. D. ROLLESTON writes: Dr. J. Rosslyn Earp, who kindly answered my query about this interesting person some weeks ago (see *Journal*, June 4, p. 1247), has been good enough to send me further information about her as follows: "I have just received the following memorandum from Dr. Stebbins: 'Since I informed you as to the recent history of Typhoid Mary I find that I was in error in stating that she had died. My informant was apparently in error and I failed to check up the truth of the statement. I find that Typhoid Mary recovered somewhat following a cerebral haemorrhage approximately a year ago, and is at present a bed patient at Riverside Hospital in New York City.'"

Income Tax

Motor Car Expenses

"W. S." had two cars in 1937, both used in the practice. One was sold in June, 1937, for £20; the other was taken over at £80 in part-exchange for a new car—list price £240—in October, 1937. What amount can be deducted from the receipts for 1937-8?

** The original price of the car sold in October, 1937, less £80. As the other car was not replaced no allowance is due. We assume that annual depreciation was not claimed. If so, the result is unfortunate, and this case illustrates a point we have called attention to on previous occasions—that is, that the failure to claim depreciation often leads to pecuniary loss.

Expenses as Part-time M.O.H.

"CAR" gave up practice owing to ill-health and is working for the Ministry of Health on a sessional basis. His duties take him to different towns, and it is imperative that he uses his car for travelling to the various towns. How does he stand as regards a car allowance?

** Our correspondent is entitled to a deduction representing the actual cost of travelling—probably the best estimate will be on a mileage basis. In the event of the local officials objecting that no allowance is due for the expense of travelling to the place where the work is performed, "CAR" should point out that the work he does

comes under one appointment, not one for each particular piece of work, and that cost of travelling is always allowed in such circumstances.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Thomas Annandale

Professor G. GREY TURNER (Taplow, Bucks) writes: May I draw attention to a small error which has crept into your note at the end of *Nova et Vetera* on page 360 of the *Journal* of August 13. Thomas Annandale was appointed Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery in Edinburgh, not in 1871 as you state, but in 1877. This was the year in which Sir William Fergusson died, and Lister accepted the invitation to come to London to succeed him as Professor of Clinical Surgery in King's College Hospital. Curiously enough this mistake as to the date has crept into the notice of Annandale in Plarr's *Lives of the Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons*. Incidentally, may I say that Professor Annandale was the second son of Thomas Annandale, who practised at Newcastle-on-Tyne and was surgeon to the infirmary in that town from 1854 to 1866. It was at Newcastle that the Edinburgh professor received his baptism in practical surgery.

Sensitiveness to Bee Stings and Ant Bites

DR. C. MCGUIRE (Dooars, Bengal) writes: In the case described by Dr. F. Alexander in the *Journal* of June 18 (p. 1348), death may have been due to the patient being sensitized to the poison of the wasp and not to the amount of poison injected. In 1934 I was called to see a tea-planter's wife who had suddenly collapsed. When I saw her she had regained consciousness, and there was an extensive urticarial eruption all over the body; the pulse was very feeble and the rate 130. On being questioned as to her diet that day she mentioned that she was stung by a bee an hour previously. As she had previously reared bees in Scotland and been frequently stung without any symptoms she never thought anything about it. I gave her an injection of adrenaline and the symptoms quickly subsided. I advised her to keep a syringe and some ampoules of adrenaline in the house in case she was stung again, as she had now become sensitized to bee stings. Between 1934 and 1937 she was again stung by a bee, and on two occasions by ants, and in each case the symptoms recurred and subsided after adrenaline administration. In 1938, about a month ago, she was once again stung by a bee, but this time nothing happened and no adrenaline was required. In 1933, a year before the first bee sting, she was treated for a severe attack of bacillary dysentery, which may have caused her to become sensitized to bee stings and ant bites; now she has become desensitized.

Fountain Pen Found

MR. MICHAEL COHEN (10, Fairway, Prestwich, Manchester) writes to say that his daughter wishes to restore to its owner a fountain pen found by her. The pen is evidently a keepsake, and has a gold band inscribed "Dr. J. Johnston, From L.C.H. Patients, 1935."

Corrigenda

The first line of Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander D. F. Walsh's paper on "Treatment of Gonorrhoea with Uleron," published in the *Journal* of July 30 (p. 215), should read: "A case record and clinical observations on forty-three cases, etc.," and line 48 in column i of page 217 should read: "feel that at least two five-day, or even seven-day".

The General Superintendent of the Prince of Wales's Hospital, Plymouth, writes as follows with reference to an item published last week (p. 379, col. ii, line 10) in the report of the meeting of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England at which certain hospitals were recognized under the Fellowship regulations. The position is as follows: This hospital consists of three amalgamated hospitals, of which the former Royal Albert Hospital at Devonport is one. It is to this hospital that the time limit of the recognition of the Royal College of Surgeons applies, and *not* also to the Plymouth sections as your notice would indicate. In *this* sense I consider the notice to be misleading; had the words "Plymouth and" been omitted the reference would have been quite in order, as it is a fact that the post referred to at Devonport is recognized only until December next, although as a result of alterations that have recently been made there we hope that recognition will be permanently granted after a further inspection by the Royal College of Surgeons.