

Letters, Notes, and Answers.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Attitology, London*. The telegraphic address of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is *Articulate, London*.

TELEPHONE (National):—

2631, Gerrard, EDITOR, BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.
2630, Gerrard, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
2634, Gerrard, MEDICAL SECRETARY.

Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

A FATHER asks any reader who has had experience of operations for the surgical treatment of prominent ears to state the results of such experience.

SAVAGE (South Africa) asks for information as to the best form of battery to obtain for cauterizing work, electrolysis, head light, cystoscopic and sinus transillumination work, to be used in a country where no electric installation is within 100 miles.

S. H. R. will be glad to know if any member has made use of hypodermic aperients. Some few years ago there was an annotation in one of the medical journals suggesting phenolphthalein for this purpose.

FIBROLYSIN.

X., who is treating with fibrolysin a case of urethral stricture of twelve years' standing in a patient the subject of pulmonary tuberculosis of five years' duration, affecting the upper portion of the left lung, and evidently of a fibroid character, asks for experience with respect to the dose and length of time the treatment may be continued, and as to the risk of pulmonary haemorrhage. He is at present injecting 2.3 c.cm. of Merck's preparation into the right flank every second or third day.

LOSS OF HAIR.

XINGA asks for views as to the diagnosis and treatment of the case of a man, aged 35, who is apparently suffering from seborrhoea capitis. The hair, previously extremely thick, has been falling off rapidly for the last two years. At first there was slight redness and extreme oiliness of the scalp, and the scalp has gradually become more red, itchy, and hypersensitive. He is subject to migrainous headaches, has suffered from a slight form of mucous colitis, and is neurotic and hypochondriacal, and though he has no real indigestion has frequent eructations like nervous and hysterical women.

INCOME TAX.

MODERATE has applied to the Assessor of Taxes for a reduction to the extent of one-third or one-fourth of the assessment on his house, on the ground that he occupies a considerable proportion of it for professional purposes. The assessor replies that he can take no steps unless our correspondent obtains a reduction of the district rate assessment.

Our correspondent appears to be under the impression that the use of part of his house for professional purposes entitles him to a reduction in the assessed value of his property. This is not the case, though if the assessment be on general grounds excessive he should appeal against the district rate assessment by giving notice through the rate collector.

HORNBEAM wishes to know whether, and on what authority, discount is allowed on income tax paid in advance of January 1st, and whether the discount applies also to property tax and house duty.

A discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum may be claimed on income tax, Schedule D, due on January 1st, but paid before that date. The allowance on £100 tax paid on December 1st would be about 4s. No discount is provided for in the case of property tax or house duty. The authority for the allowance is Section 141 of the Income Tax Act, 1842, as amended by Section 10 of the Revenue Act, 1889.

PETROL TAX REBATE.

C. E. A. A. was informed, in reply to an inquiry addressed to a motor journal, that he could not claim rebate on less than a year's consumption; the Excise authorities refuse to allow him rebate for more than six months' consumption.

The Excise officers are right. The relief from one-half the petrol duty, allowed to medical men, can be claimed only for petrol consumed within the six months preceding the date of the application for repayment.

ANSWERS.

MÉDECIN.—Mr. H. De Méric's *Dictionnaire des Termes de Médecine, Français—Anglais* (London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, 1899), would probably meet our correspondent's requirements.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

FOUND.

MESSRS. ALLEN AND HANBURYS LIMITED, Bethnal Green, London, E., ask us to state that in an empty case recently returned by a customer they found a plain gold signet ring with an oval shield bearing a crest. They are unable to identify the sender of the case, or even to ascertain whether it came from a doctor or a chemist.

A WARNING.

WE are informed by a resident in Chelsea that a man describing himself as a doctor has been calling on people in that locality with a petition against the Insurance Act, which he said was organized by the British Medical Association. He also took the opportunity wherever possible of collecting small subscriptions towards the expense of the protest. The man is about 5 ft. 8 in. in height, with a moustache, neither dark nor fair, looks about 42, and speaks rather like an Irishman. The suspicions of our informant were aroused by the fact that in the petition he was asked to sign the word profession was spelt with two "f's."

RECENT GRANTS OF ARMS TO MEDICAL MEN.

ARMA VIRUMQUE writes: I regret to notice that in recent grants to doctors there is an absence of any bearing suggestive of the practice of medicine. I refer to such bearings as the winged caduceus, the coiled serpent, the lighted lamp, and the flaming torch. Such bearings were formerly common. They form very beautiful heraldic embellishments, and are very suggestive of scientific medicine. The Heralds, I believe, will always be found responsive to the suggestions of a grantee in the matter.

A PORTABLE SPITTOON.

MR. WILLIAM MARTINDALE, of New Cavendish Street, W., has recently put upon the market a pocket spittoon which combines several excellent features. Of oval shape and measuring 3 in. by 1 in., it is of convenient size, and, being of nickel silver or other bright, strong metal throughout, is slightly in appearance and unbreakable. It is also easily emptied and cleansed, and can not only be opened readily, but closed with equal ease in such fashion that there would be no chance of the contents exuding even if the case were carried upside down. We regard it as about the best appliance of the kind that we have yet seen. Its price is 8s.

FEES FOR REPORTS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

DR. THOMAS R. WIGLESWORTH (Minster) writes: I have made a very considerable number of reports for insurance companies under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. Some of the insurance companies when writing for report say they will be pleased to forward usual fee of 10s. 6d. on receipt of report. I always reply saying that I shall be pleased to make report, but that my fee is £1 ls., and I have invariably received it. I should advise "Practitioner" to do the same, and not accept less.

PROCTOCLYSIS.

AN appliance intended to facilitate saline injections *per rectum* or *per cutem* which has recently been brought under notice consists of a large india-rubber cork carrying a glass siphon to the long end of which is attached a pipe with a nozzle for the delivery of the fluid and an elastic bulb to start its flow. The cork is of such size as to fit the mouth of one or other of the various makes of heat-retaining flasks now obtainable, and if the delivery tube is removed from the siphon and the upper end of this inserted into a hole in the cork, the injection having been prepared at home by the practitioner, can be taken ready for use forthwith at his patient's house. The appliance has been made by Messrs. Arnold and Son of West Smithfield, according to the specification of Dr. Lennox Wainwright of Folkestone, who, as also many of his surgical friends, has found it very efficient. The price is 11s. 6d.

A CORRECTION.

DR. WEATHERHEAD (Brighton) has called our attention to an error in the Index, which he wishes to have corrected. (1) Under "F," the reference is given as, "Fetus *in utero* over forty years," (Dr. Weathered), 1109. (2) Under "W," the reference is given as, "Weathered, Dr.: Fetus *in utero* forty years," 1109, 1694. In those references Dr. Weatherhead's name is misspelt, and "Fetus *in utero*" should, of course, be "Fetus in abdominal cavity." The mistakes, he adds, are not the fault of the compiler of the Index. The entries were made from the official report as received for publication.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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NOTE.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive *postes restantes* letters addressed either in initials or numbers.