Letters, Notes, and Answers.

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, 429, Strand, W.C.2.

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Matter intended for the current issue should be posted so as to arrive by the first post on Monday, though in special circumstances urgent communications can usually be received on Tuesday morning.

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Queries and Answers.

X" writes: I have a patient who has the greatest dread of thunderstorms. Can any reader suggest a plan for giving relief?

BONENO "writes: I have a patient who is not a true "bloody," but who, on having three teeth extracted, nearly died by. That is fifteen years ago. His teeth are now in a very bad state and should all be extracted. What is one to do to prevent recurrence of the bleeding?

The Treatment of Fibrositis.

Dr. R. CHALMERS (Darlington) asks for information as to the dose of triamcinolone phosphate recommended by Dr. Ellis during the discussion on the nature, prevention, and treatment of fibrositis, reported in our columns on March 14th (p. 509).

The dose is not given in any book of reference to which we have access, but Dr. Ellis informs us that it should be 2 grams and upwards, according to results. It may disagree and produce general discomfort. It is contraindicated in alkaline gastro-neurotic cases. Dr. Ellis adds that the drug should be given carefully; he has gone as high as 10 grams three times daily, but very rarely.

Relapse in Measles.

G. F." asks: Is there such a thing as a relapse in measles? I can find no reference in the textbooks. Three sisters had typical measles recently; seven days later the eldest girl again came out in a typical measles rash, with slight elevation of temperature and injected eyes, and must the quarantine period be again extended?

* * * We find the following references, but they leave the first question unanswered.—Allbutt and Rolleston, System of Medicine: "It has sometimes been suspected of common occurrence in measles, but it seems clear that a true relapse is a very rare event. Some of the cases quoted as examples of relapse are really instances of irregular development of the rash: others rest, apparently, on the supposition of diagnosis— the first or the second eruption being in reality that of German measles." Osler and McCrone's Principles and Practice of Medicine (sixth edition): "Relapses are occasionally seen, the symptoms recurring at intervals from ten to forty days; but it is not always recurring to say whether there may not have been new infection from without."

Letters, Notes, Etc.

Easy Writing and Hard Reading.

We are indebted to Dr. C. O. Hawthorne for the following postscript to the note under this heading (April 25th, p. 512), in which he quotes from Moore's Life of Sheridan, where it is stated to be quoted from Clio's Protest:

I think I have run the copulet to earth. In the form I sent it to you it appears, as stated, in Moore's Life of Sheridan, but the page is not 355 but 55. Further. the copulet is quoted alone— I mean without its context. Clio's Protest is a topical or personal set of verses apparently intended to satirise some incident or events, and it includes references to a number of persons indicated by initials or by an initial and surname. There is no one who could interpret the references, and I take it that this is what Mr. Brustein's interest of the Protest explains the exclusion of the lines from volumes offered as The Works of Sheridan. They appear, however, together with other odd verses, in two different volumes which I have seen at the British Museum. But there is a disappointment. The full-blooded vigour of "d— hard reading"—as you quoted it, was somewhat reduced in the lines of the Life; it became "curst hard reading." A still milder tone marks the original (Thomas Moore did not quote it correctly): it runs "vile hard reading. I have a suspicion that somewhere in Macaulay the d—hard reading' had been found, but, at any rate, I will turn up the reference. I now send the lines and the interpretation I have placed on them:

"If in my strictures I've been free
Your exalted Grace, I know it,
How'er I'll make all masters equal
By who'soever Councils, seconded:
And first leave Yorship; pray,
Your gen'in not your own,
You write with ease to show your breeding,
But easy writing's vile hard reading."

From Clio's Protest, or the Picture Furnished.

To Relieve Pain in Burns and Scalds.

Dr. W. F. Moore: Kingsbury (Tamworth) writes to recommend as a simple and effective application for pain in burns and scalds equal parts of linseed oil and lime water, with the addition of half an ounce of lignum of ointment of spirit of eight ounces. This, he says, stops the pain quickly and is excellent treatment during the painful stage in very severe and very extensive burns. I later applies an antiseptic, such as boric acid ointment.

Erratum.

In the report of the discussion on puerperal sepsis at the Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, published on May 2nd (p. 331), Dr. F. J. McCann is reported to have expressed the opinion that "frequency general infection" is a better term than "puerperal sepsis." The word "general" was a misprint for "ge of facial. I thought it a perfectly good word for "infection" because it brought home the fact that puerperal infection was comparable with wound infection in general surgery.

Vacancies.

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and in the medical profession at hospitals, will be found at pages 35, 36, 37, 40, and 41 of our advertisements, columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, residencies at hospitals, and fellowships at universities.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 199.