Letters, Notes, and Answers

All communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed to The EDITOR, British Medical Journal, British Medical Association House, Tavistock Square, W.C.I.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the British Medical Journal alone unless the contrary be stated. Correspondents who wish to take part in their communications should address them to the Editor, British Medical Journal, Tavistock Square, W.C.I.

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Impotence following Tonsillectomy

Dr. R. MacD. Laddell writes: In answer to "Perplexed," it seems likely that his patient is suffering from a psychological condition analogous to "ejaculatio praecox." It is possible that the operation, and particularly the secondary haemorrhage, acted as a psychic trauma and aroused a mental complex which requires psychological analysis for its elucidation.

Prophylaxis of Enteric Fever

"E. C. B." writes: As typhoid is said to be endemic in a Mediterranean island where I shall be staying this spring, I should be glad to have particulars of a method for making water safe for drinking purposes.

* * *

A person intending to reside in a place where typhoid fever is endemic and where available water is open to the risk of pollution should, before departure, undergo effective prophylactic inoculation. In order to make sure of this, it is advisable to take the following measures:

1. Boiling. Momentary exposure to 212°F. kills all non-sporing bacteria. The water should be raised to the boiling point. This is achieved by using the Pasteur-Chamberland filter. A portable outfit, with pump, may be obtained from Messrs. Doulton and Co., Lambeth. The pump is essential where the water is not delivered in pipes under pressure. The bougie should be taken out every three days, scrubbed, scalded, and replaced.

2. Bleaching powder. Put a level teaspoonful of bleaching powder into a tea-cupful of water. Dilute this with three teaspoonfuls of water and add one teaspoonful of the dilution to each two gallons of the water to be drunk. Water so treated is safe to drink fifteen minutes later. It may be found to taste of chlorine, but the amount of that substance present is innocuous. The supply of bleaching powder should be put up in small quantities in sealed tins.

Income Tax

Assistant: Expenses

"J. R." is an indoor assistant, and is making certain payments to his mother in view of the fact that she assisted him in the purchase of instruments and other necessities when starting his professional work. Are such payments deductible? *No; essentially such expenses were in the nature of capital outlay, and the payments now being made are not admissible expenses incurred in the carrying out of his duties.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant residencies and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, and 53 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 50 and 51.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 47.