Letters, Notes, and Answers

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**QUERIES AND ANSWERS**

England’s Debt to Scotland

Dr. J. H. Mccoll, Colvend, Dalbeattie, Scotland would be grateful for biographical or other information bearing upon contributions of Scotsmen, past and present, to medical science in England.

Treatment of Chronic Herpes

"VESICLE" (Norfolk) writes: I wonder if any readers could give me advice as to the treatment of a lady, aged 60, with chronic herpes frontalis. The attack was five years ago. Since then the pain has been constant, with repeated outbreaks of spots on the head. Her life is made unbearable, and no treatment seems to be of any avail.

Threadworms and Printers' Devils

Corrigendum

A grotesque blunder was made last week in our printing office, for which apologies are due to readers in general and to Colonel W. P. Macarthur in particular. At page 224, in a footnote to one of the letters making suggestions for the treatment of threadworms, the title of Colonel Macarthur was misquoted as recommending "the use of two grains of santonin and half an ounce of calomel by mouth." We feel sure that this will have been recognized by every reader as a misprint for half a grain.

Income Tax

"JUNIUS" has been asked by the inspector of taxes to produce his bank pass-book for scrutiny. Can this request be enforced?

**+** The inspector has himself no statutory authority to require evidence in support of a taxpayer's return, but if the return is not accepted and an assessment in excess of the amount of the return is made, the taxpayer's only remedy is to appeal to the Commissioners, and that body has a very wide discretion as to what evidence it requires for the purpose of the appeal. It may be worth while pointing out that the pass-book forms part of the material which a professional accountant would commonly expect to be available to him when preparing accounts for a practice, so that its relevance on an income tax matter must, in general, be admitted.

Contribution to Superannuation Fund

"I. T. X." obtained relief from 1921 to 1928 on that portion of the premiums (in connexion with a part of the material which a professional accountant would commonly expect to be available to him when preparing accounts for a practice) that its relevance on an income tax matter must, in general, be admitted.

*+* There is no allowance for premiums paid in respect of deferred annuity policies parallel to that in respect of life assurance. There is, however, a partial form of relief governed by Section 32 of the Finance Act of 1921, which provides for the allowance of payments made by employees to approved superannuation funds. "I. T. X." was evidently entitled to relief while an employee of the university concerned, but if she left that employment in 1928 her subsequent payments would not be allowable for income tax.

**LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.**

Prescription of Hypnotic Drugs

Dr. G. Nesbit-Wood (Hastings) writes: I am afraid "Pharmacist's" suggestion (Journal, February 3rd, p. 224) for the limitation of hypnotic drugs of the barbitone group, namely, making the prescription of the hypnotic in question (as is usually done) every two months—"is of little use so long as a number of lesser chemists are prepared to sell them over the counter like so many sweets. A patient of mine during a long illness received one of these hypnotics in doses which, while not repeated often, developed a perfect passion for the drug. One night I was called to find her in a coma, and the whole matter came out. Secreted round her were eighty tablets of sodium barbitone, each of 5 grains, which she said she had bought from the same chemist in the space of three days. When I visited this man he blandly showed me his book recording sales of barbitone. The chemist's reply was, "I had no word against the patient's I could take the matter no further than request him not to serve her again. I was later informed that when she again tried to obtain supplies at the shop the druggist suggested that she should change her doctor and so obtain official sanction for more. Since then I have had a two years' struggle with her, and she has never again divulged the name of the chemists from whom she gets her tablets, but I know that she visits Eastbourne, Brighton, Lewes, Rye, and other places, and gets supplies at all of them, and from time to time gets them in this town. She says some chemists have offered to send her all she needs by post. Her husband caught out one chemist in Brighton, who was as cool as you like over it. "If we refused you, our rivals would not, was the gist of his remark. As most of the chemists here have made no attempt on her life with sodium barbitone (she is perfectly sane), it would appear that regulations such as those governing morphine might be advantageous. I must, of course, state that all my patients in this town have refused her point blank when she could not produce a proper prescription.

Disclaimers

Dr. W. H. D. Crook (Worland, Exeter) writes: In a recent issue of a Sunday newspaper there is an article containing a statement made by me which is not only completely inaccurate but physically impossible. At the end of the article is what appears to be an interview with me. This "interview" consisted of a telephone trunk call, in the course of which I passed on some of our affairs on her life with sodium barbitone (she is perfectly sane), it would appear that regulations such as those governing morphine might be advantageous. I must, of course, state that all my patients in this town have refused her point blank when she could not produce a proper prescription.

**Solute for Foot Baths**

Dr. W. H. D. Crook [Worland House, Exeter] writes: Frequently one orders a foot-bath containing sodium carbonate for tired and swollen feet, and for arthritis of the tarsus or ankle. For some time I have used, instead of the carbonate, the well-known soap powder ("persil," one tablespoonful of the galvanic current and for arthritis of the tarsus or ankle. For some time I have used, instead of the carbonate, the well-known soap powder ("persil," one tablespoonful of the galvanic current and for arthritis of the tarsus or ankle. For some time I have used, instead of the carbonate, the well-known soap powder ("persil," one tablespoonful of the galvanic current recorded that not to publish my name, and emphasized the fact that I wanted no publicity whatever. I had no idea that they intended to report any part of this conversation.

Solvent for Foot Baths

"ORITUX" (Liverpool) writes: Frequently one orders a foot-bath containing sodium carbonate for tired and swollen feet, and for arthritis of the tarsus or ankle. For some time I have used, instead of the carbonate, the well-known soap powder ("persil," one tablespoonful of the galvanic current and for arthritis of the tarsus or ankle. For some time I have used, instead of the carbonate, the well-known soap powder ("persil," one tablespoonful of the galvanic current.

Raised Intraocular Tension

Corrigendum

The second sentence of Dr. Victor Purvis's letter under this heading (February 3rd, p. 215) contained a superfluous word which changed his meaning. The phrase should read: "... but, from an ophthalmological point of view."

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 47, and 48 of our advertisement column. Inquiries concerning fellowships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 44 and 45.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement column appears in the Supplement at page 64.