

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Achondroplasia

"W. R." (Belfast) writes: I have under my care at the moment a boy of 1½ years suffering from the above. He is an only child, and his parents are greatly disappointed that his condition should be considered incurable. I would be grateful for any suggestions regarding causation and treatment.

#### Asthma Query

"PLEX" writes from South Africa: My son, aged 4 years, has been suffering from bronchial asthma since he was 2½ years old; the condition followed the removal of congenital adenoids. The attacks are experienced every four to six weeks, and usually follow an acute coryza. So far I have been unable to identify the offending "allergen," which must be present daily to produce the constant rhinitis, and which is so intensified by the advent of a cold as to cause an attack of asthma. Frequent investigations of the nose for sinusitis and of the diets have not helped. I would be glad if some reader could suggest a diet free from milk and cereals which will be tasty and appetizing. Would an autogenous vaccine or a stock anti-catarhal vaccine be of use in preventing attacks?

#### Iodine in Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Dr. H. A. MURRAY (Exeter), in reply to Dr. W. O. C. Hunt (*Journal*, April 24, p. 900), writes: I remember that Dr. Guy, one-time assistant M.O.H. for Edinburgh, was trying this method of treatment about 1923, and I believe he intended to incorporate the results in a book. Again, in 1926, in my thesis for M.D. Edinburgh, I suggested that iodine would prove to be the most valuable drug in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

#### Income Tax

##### Co-operative Stores Dividend

"Y" inquires whether he should include in his return "dividends received as a member of the local retail co-operative store."

\*\* Interest received from deposits with a co-operative society is liable to assessment, and so are dividends received on shares in such societies, but the so-called "dividends" paid in respect of purchases are not liable to tax, and should not be shown on the form of return.

##### Nursing Home Fees. Car Replacement.

"J. A." inquires (a) whether nursing home fees paid for oneself are allowable, and (b) what allowance he should have if he replaces a 14-h.p. car bought in 1930 for £285 for another of similar h.p., which will cost £265, less, say, £10 allowable for the old car. Depreciation has not been claimed.

\*\* (a) The fees are not allowable; they are personal rather than professional expenses. (b) If cost of replacement is claimed the amount allowable as an expense of 1937 will be £265 - (say) £10 = £255—that is, the actual out-of-pocket expenditure; in the circumstances it is preferable to claim the "obsolescence" allowance, which is £285 - (say) £10 = £275 or £265, whichever is greater.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### Kitchen Offices in Hospitals

A Chadwick Trust Lecture on the plan and equipment of kitchen offices in hospitals and other institutions was given by Miss R. Whitaker, principal of the Gloucestershire Training College of Domestic Science, at the Royal Sanitary Institute on April 15. The lecturer referred to the astonishing effects on output which followed the application of scientific studies to the lay-out of factories and training workers. Application of the same principles to the women's workshop had been unduly delayed, but it was now attracting much attention in the effort to lessen drudgery and make domestic work more attractive. While the principles were the same whether for the kitchen of the council house or for the great hospital or school, the result in the elimination of unnecessary labour, improvement in standard of output and of health and contentment of workers, was naturally immensely greater in the institution. The first essential was rational planning, based upon certain simple principles, which, however, usually required the aid of the expert in their application, since probably no two sets of conditions were identical, and the alteration of the position of a single item of apparatus might destroy the efficiency of the whole plan. The essentials were that raw materials should enter the building as near as possible to the place where they would be stored until they were used. Each item which was to form part of the meal or meals undergoing preparation should travel steadily forwards through the various processes of preparation, with no backward movements and as little cross-tracking of workers as possible, until the finished product was assembled in the hot or cold closets of the servery. Miss Whitaker showed slides illustrative of the application of these principles in industry, and of their contravention in the kitchens of even modern institutions, where the plotting of the workers' movements produced wild confusions of line such as might have been made by a mouse in a cage. The lecture will be printed in full in the June number of *Nosokomeion*, the official organ of the International Hospital Association, published at Buchschlag, Hessen, Germany.

#### Another Warning

Dr. G. L. DAVIES (London, S.W.6) writes: I should be glad to know if any of your readers have been called upon by a slight, delicate-looking young man (usually wearing a bowler hat and a blue overcoat) who sells potentiometers to enable ophthalmoscopes, etc., to be illuminated from the house circuit. I have seen him once in the North and twice down here, and on the last occasion he prevailed upon me to pay him 10s. (plus 3s. 6d. for certain accessories) for one of his potentiometers, which he normally sold (so he said) for £2 15s. He told me a story about having run out of money and having nothing to pay his fare home. He left no address, and the "accessories" have never arrived. One of the local doctors who is also supposed to have bought one of these articles has just told me that he didn't. An electrician who dismantled the apparatus said the components were of the cheapest, and the handsome piece of "chrome steel" which formed the panel for the switch, etc., is nothing but a piece of brass, chromium plated. I was warned that there was a great risk in using the instrument, as the flex is much too thin to stand the average voltage in a house.

#### Corrigendu

Dame LOUISE McILROY writes: I would be glad if you would kindly correct a mistake I made in the manuscript of my paper on surgical intervention in obstetrical practice (*Journal*, April 17, p. 800). At the paragraph referring to the third stage of labour, "Injection of saline solution into the umbilicus in some cases effects delivery of the placenta," should read, "Injection of saline solution into the umbilical cord in some cases effects delivery of the placenta."

We regret that by a slip of the pen the name of Miss Susan Musson, general secretary of the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, was incorrectly given in a paragraph about her pamphlet *The Unmarried Mother* published last week at page 876.