Letters, Notes, and Answers

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Queries and Answers

Cardiac Massage

The anaesthetists committee of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary would welcome information on instances of cardiac massage as a resuscitative measure for cardiac failure during anaesthesia. Descriptions of cases with special points of interest, or other references, may be sent to Dr. W. B. Primrose, at 10, Park Quadrant, Glasgow, C.3, or at the Infirmary.

Painful Heel

"D.C." writes: I have a patient, aged 76, whose only recreation is walking. For the past three months he has complained of pain under the os calcis; this comes on after walking for some time. The time interval is getting less, and now minor exertion brings on pain. I have tried rubber pads, a raised heel, and massage without appreciable effect, X-ray examination shows "some minute points of calcification just below the os calcis; no definite bony spur." I should be glad of any advice as to treatment of this condition.

Income Tax

Allowable Expenses

"S. M." has, during the past year, (a) bought a share in a partnership, (b) bought and furnished a house, and (c) sold his old car and bought a new one. He asks what relief from income tax can be claimed in respect of these transactions.

**In respect of (a) and (b) none, for in both cases the expenditure represents an outlay of capital and consequently gives rise to no claim. As regards (c), if the old car had been used professionally we are of opinion that our correspondent can deduct as an expense the net cost of replacement, less any amount due to "improvement." For example, if an old car costing £200 has been sold for £50 and a new one purchased for £225, he can claim the net cost of renewal, £225 - £50 = £175 (the amount expended) less £25 (the improvement element)—that is, £150 net. We assume that he has not been allowed depreciation in respect of the car sold and does not intend to claim it on the new car.

Letters, Notes, etc.

Posture of Children

In these days when the need for physical fitness is being stressed by all and sundry, anything that helps to achieve this desirable end is to be welcomed. Not least among the matters conducive to physical fitness is the maintenance of a correct posture. The evils, for example, of any abnormal relation of one part of the axial skeleton to another are not limited to the deformed region, but extend from the top of the head to the toes. Once incorrect posture has been adopted as the result of faulty habits, bad health, fatigue, the wrong physical attitude tends to persist. It is therefore essential that those who have the care of children should do what they can to encourage the adoption of such a posture as will make for good health. To this end we welcome the twenty-three-page pamphlet entitled Posture and Exercise for Young Children, by Dr. John Gibbons, and published by the National Association of Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. It can be obtained for 6d. on application to Carnegie House, 117, Piccadilly, W.1.

Dr. Nash's Cookery Book

Simpkin Marshall, Ltd., Stationers' Hall Court, E.C.4, informs us that they are receiving applications from medical officers of health for various boroughs and county councils for copies of Dr. Nash's Cookery Book for free distribution. Under the agreement of the Publishers' Association they are permitted to give a special discount to such councils providing the books are given away free. Medical officers of health can obtain from Messrs. Simpkin Marshall the terms they are prepared to grant for redistribution. A notice of the book appeared in our issue of December 11, 1937 (p. 1172).

Corrigendum

Roussel Laboratories Ltd. write: In the leading article in the Journal of March 5 (p. 552) it is stated that, "According to de Leon prontosil will cure malaria." We may point out that the preparation used by de Leon in the treatment of fifteen cases of malaria was Rubiazol Roussel, not prontosil or sulphanilamide. Rubiazol is an azo dye possessing a carbohydrated function, and has the formula C_{6}H_{4}O_{2}N_{2}S. It differs from both prontosil and sulphanilamide.

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\text{C}_{6}\text{H}_{4}\text{O}_{2}\text{N}_{2}\text{S} \quad \text{Rubiazol} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{NH} \quad \text{N} = \text{N} \quad \text{SO, NH}.
\]

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\text{Prontosil} \quad \frac{\text{NH}}{\text{N}} = \text{N} = \text{N} \quad \text{SO, NH}.
\]

\[
\text{Sulphanilamide} \quad \frac{\text{NH}}{\text{SO, NH}}.
\]

Sulphanilamide is, we understand, the generic term applied to para-azo-benzene-sulphamide, which is a white body without any azo or sulphanilamide. It differs from rubiazol in that it does not carry the COOH group.