Snoring

Mr. J. H. Badcock, F.R.C.S. (Bury St. Edmunds), writes: "Z.'s" patient (Journal, June 18, p. 1348) should ask his dentist to make him a mouth "valve" or "shild," which, when fitted between lips and teeth, will make mouth-breathing impossible. If the mouth falls widely open chin support may be necessary in addition; the nose must be patron. A simple device for keeping the alae nasi open is made as follows: take a pierced rubber tubing of a "Anatomist" to fit the nostrils comfortably and about 2 inches long; double it, and with scissors cut a "window" in the middle about \( \frac{1}{2} \) inch wide, leaving about \( \frac{1}{4} \) inch of the circumference intact, thus forming to fit the nostrils two tubes connected by a narrow strip across the septum.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Birthday Honours: Addendum

The names of two recipients of Birthday Honours were omitted from the list published in our last issue at p. 1329. Dr. James Laidlaw Maxwell, General Secretary of the International Red Cross Committee for Central China, is created C.B.E., and Mr. Janardan Sitaram Vaidya, assistant surgeon, Medical Department,Somaliland Protectorate, Honorary M.B.E.

Bed-bug in the Human Ear

Dr. N. Vere-Hodge (St. George's Hospital) and Mr. A. W. McKenny Hughes (British Museum, Natural History) write: On June 6 a middle-aged woman attended St. George's Hospital complaining of discomfort and a feeling of fullness and noises in one ear; she was awakened and prevented from sleeping by these symptoms. She did not complain of pain. When examined she was clean in her person and no other external parasites were seen. Both ears were seen to be full of wax and on washing out the affected side with warm water followed by a live insect—a male specimen of *Cimex lectularius* Linn., the bed-bug. This occurrence is so rare—indeed this is thought to be the first record in Great Britain—that it seems worth reporting.

"The Evolutionary Theory"

Colonel G. F. Rowcroft, D.S.O. (Coonoor, S. India), in a letter dated March 28, writes: The answer to Surgeon Rear-Admiral Charles M. Beadnell (Journal, March 5, p. 550) will be found at page 44 of *Why be an Ape?* by "A London Journalist." (Marshall, Morgan, and Scott; price 2s. 6d.) "In 1908, Haeckel published in a pamphlet, *Das Menschen-Problem*, diagrams showing the embryos of man and of various types of apes, for comparison. Dr. Arnold Brass, in 1908, in another pamphlet, asserted that the diagrams were inaccurate, being deliberately falsified. Haeckel's reply in the *Münchener Allgemeine Zeitung* of January, 1909, contained the following admission: "To put an end to this unsavoury dispute, I begin at once with the concise confession that a small number of my embryo diagrams are really forgeries in Dr. Brass's sense. . . . I should feel utterly condemned and annihilated by the admission were it not that hundreds of the best observers and biologists lie under the same charge. The great majority to all morphological, anatomical, histological, and embryological diagrams are not true to nature, but are more or less doctored, schematized, and reconstructed." The "London Journalist" comments on the obvious unhappiness of evolution has brought any such sweeping indictment of the integrity of science as this admission by one of the world's foremost biologists?" I myself plead guilty to one error. I am afraid I said that Haeckel "admitted that many of his illustrations were faked. He actually said that only "small number" were. But the "falsification" of even only one in a chain of such evidence destroys the value of the whole of it. From the above it will be seen that to speak of Haeckel's indignant refutation is hardly accurate, as he has admitted that the "venomous charge" is a perfectly true one. Your correspondent, like many others, is evidently unable to see Haeckel's numerous fallacies, which only shows that he must be a very "subtle" writer. Everyone will agree that he has made his great work, *The Evolution of Man*, most attractive and specious, hence its great sale, though a large sale of any work in no way betokens its accuracy, as anyone can see for himself if he will call to mind many books of fiction. Is it the inconsistency in believing in other forms of progress while denying the evolution of man from the amoeba? They are not necessarily related in any way. And must there then be retrogression before progress?

Health Survey of Kedah

Kedah is a State lying on the western coast of the Malay Peninsula. Its area is roughly three thousand square miles, its population nearly half a million. Rainfall is copious, temperature and humidity uniformly high. The terrain comprises a flat coastal belt devoted to rice-growing and a hilly interior, occupied to a considerable extent by large rubber estates, although extensive areas of crop cultivation in peat Schwenge. The inhabitants, except labourers on the rubber estates imported from India, are nearly all Malay. *A Health Survey of the State of Kedah* is a comprehensive report of the investigations undertaken by Dr. W. J. Vickers and Dr. J. H. Strahan during 1935 and 1936. The survey is divided into six parts, one of which is devoted to nutrition. The authors found that the diet of the Malay is deficient in energy value, in good-class protein, and in vitamins. In the more prosperous areas, meat and soya beans are used and also suggested that the insufficient intake of fat might be remedied by the inclusion in the dietary of animal fat, red palm oil, and eggs. The authors maintain that a definite degree of subnutrition exists among the general population. The rural Malay has "on the verge of safety. With short hours of work and the maximum amount of rest ill effects are not always apparent, but any increased effort, as, for example, strenuous road-making work, appears to induce mild symptoms of such deficiency diseases as beriberi. The value of the report is enhanced by the inclusion of maps, charts, and excellent photographs, all relevant.

Medical Postage Stamps

From Holland has recently arrived an artistically pleasing set of five stamps, two of which are of medical interest. Boerhaave, the bicentenary of whose death is commemorated this year, is portrayed on a 12½ plus 3½ cent light blue stamp, and "A Rembrandt," who painted a medical subject, on a 12½ plus 3½ cent stamp.

Prontosil Booklet

We have received a booklet entitled "Prontosil" from Bayer Products, Ltd., which is a well-documented survey of the new chemotherapy. It runs into some seventy-one pages, and the ten chapters are divided into three sections: (1) Experimental Findings, (2) Clinical Experiences, and (3) Therapeutics. Copies can be obtained on application to Bayer Products, Ltd., Africa House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

Disclaimers

Mr. T. P. Noble, F.R.C.S., Dr. A. P. Brown, and Dr. W. B. Sills, of Ebbw Vale, and W. B. Sills, of Ebbw Vale, have been present with an article which appeared in a London daily paper and a South Wales evening paper reference is made to us in connexion with an operation performed at Ebbw Vale General Hospital. We were greatly distressed on reading the article, which was written entirely without our knowledge or consent, and steps have been taken to prevent any repetition.

Dr. Susan Beatty wishes to disclaim any responsibility for the unwelcome publicity given by newspapers to a simple appendicectomy which she performed in mid-Atlantic on the *Letitia*.

Corrigendum

In the reply to an income-tax inquiry by "Major, R.A.M.C.," in last week's Journal (p. 1348) the word "blamed" in the last line but one should read "allowed."