

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### Snoring

"W. M. M." writes in reply to "Perplexed's" request for advice on snoring (March 25, p. 655): A shield can be made by a dental surgeon to fit between the teeth and the cheeks and lips. This shield worn at night prevents mouth breathing and so stops snoring.

#### William Hunter's Coins

Mr. W. R. LE FANU, M.A., Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, writes: William Hunter's coins, about which Dr. A. Piney inquires at page 656 of the *Journal* of March 25, are described in a pamphlet by Sir George Macdonald, *The Hunterian Coin Cabinet*, published in 1933 by Glasgow University, to which Hunter bequeathed all his collections.

Dr. F. PARKES WEBER writes: The Hunterian collection in the University of Glasgow, containing William Hunter's coins, is one of the best-known collections of Greek coins in the world. So far as I remember, the curator of the collection was president of the recent International Numismatic Congress in London.

Professor E. P. CATHCART also writes confirming that the coins along with the rest of William Hunter's books, pictures, etc., are housed in the Hunterian Collection in Glasgow University.

#### Treatment of Urticaria

Dr. J. J. HOGAN (Waterford) writes to suggest that "M.B." (February 25, p. 430) should try adrenaline.

#### Income Tax

"Z" has recently moved into a more expensive house. It was built as a doctor's house and has a special surgery; the hall is particularly large, and the drawing-room, and sometimes the waiting-room, are used for patients. The inspector of taxes considered one-fifth of the rental a sufficient allowance; later he offered two-fifths after discussion, but has now withdrawn that offer.

\*\* Definite advice is difficult in a case of this type, as so much depends on a detailed examination of the premises. Broadly, one-fifth seems insufficient, and "Z" should be allowed one-third or two-fifths as a basis. It has to be remembered that the ground floor is the highest-valued floor of the premises, and that the two-fifths, etc., has to cover the garage. A useful check on the estimate is to consider the *balance* of rent in relation to the private portion—that is, what would have to be paid for such accommodation if it stood alone.

#### Absence Abroad

"B. R. O." holds an appointment in this country, and will probably be absent from the United Kingdom for more than six months in the coming financial year. If so, will it affect his liability to income tax?

\*\* The six-months rule applies only to visitors to this country, and then only to income arising abroad. "B. R. O.'s" proposed absence will therefore not affect the amount of tax payable on emoluments arising from an appointment in the United Kingdom.

"E. F." inquires: What taxation does an American woman pay who is married to a British subject and resident in England? The income is from American stocks held in the United States.

\*\* The husband is liable to assessment in respect of the income—that is, the amount of the dividends less the American tax payable thereon. Double income tax relief is restricted to income from British Dominions, Crown Colonies, etc., and does not apply to American income.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### "Advice"

Dr. H. N. GARRUS (Hayes, Middlesex) writes: Within the last few hours a representative of a water-softening firm has made a verbal offer to pay me 10s. for every patient persuaded to buy one of these machines. I "advise" the rheumatic sufferer; the agent does the rest. Not so long ago an insurance company agent called and wished to make me an agent—not referee—who would be in a unique position to "advise" patients to take up policies, each of which would carry a commission for me. On another occasion another insurance company offered a medical refereeship, providing a personal policy was first taken out with them.

#### The Medical Register, 1939

The official *Medical Register* for 1939 has now been published on behalf of the General Medical Council by Constable and Co., Ltd. at 21s.; post free, 22s. 6d. The table printed in the introductory section shows that 2,365 names were added last year, the highest increment in any year since the three exceptional years 1923-5. New registrations numbered 1,150 in England, 590 in Scotland, 295 in Ireland, and 330 on the Colonial and Foreign lists. The total number of names on the *Register* at the end of the year was 61,420, representing an increase of 1,257. The number of names removed from the *Register* during 1938 was 1,142: of these, 1,003 were deleted on evidence of death; 132 for failure to comply with the inquiries of the registrar as to cessation of practice or change of address; and seven were struck off under the disciplinary powers conferred by Parliament on the General Medical Council. The average annual number of penal erasures during the past twenty years was five.

#### Disclaimer

Dr. SYDNEY A. OWEN writes: In a recent issue of the *Sunday Pictorial* there appeared a picture entitled "A Glass Case Saves a Tiny Life." In the letterpress below my name appears. I wish to state categorically that the publication of this picture with reference to me by name, was made without my knowledge or approval.

#### Corrigenda

An error was made in the issue of March 18, p. 563, in stating that *Public Health Services*, by Norman Wilson, is published by the University of London Press. William Hodge and Co. are the sole publishers of this volume.

On March 25 at page 645 it was stated, through a printer's error, that Dr. J. V. Mainprize treated a boy aged 10 with 5 grammes of sulphanilamide four-hourly. The dosage he gave was 5 *grains* four-hourly.

Colonel G. F. ROWCROFT writes: I regret that in my letter about sudden heart failure (March 25, p. 656) I mentioned the injection of "novocain" as a restorative. It was, of course, a *lapsus calami* for "adrenaline."