Coarse Tremor in the Elderly

Dr. W. N. Leek (Windsor) writes: In "Any Questions?" (Jan. 13, p. 67) your contributor says: "I cannot suggest any medicinal treatment which will help these patients"—i.e., elderly people with a coarse tremor. In 1935 (Journal, 1, 1097) it was mentioned that prominent tremor is often most distinctive in the control of tremors of various sorts, for which there is at present no effective medication." Experience since then has confirmed my opinion, and in the coarse tremor of the elderly a prominent tremor produces dramatic improvement. For example, an aunt of mine, who could barely manage to drink her tea using both hands, within a week of commencing prominal was pouring out tea with one hand, to her great satisfaction.

Pepetic Ulcer

Dr. P. K. Muspratt (Pleasington) writes: There appear to be many contributory factors in the aetiology of pepetic ulcer, but I should like to stress one which is often ignored—namely, the ingestion of over-hot liquids. Digestive trouble due to a "peptic ulcer," preferring mental homes. He states that such institutions "are no longer merely places of rest and detention but provide active and specific forms of treatment." The word "asylum" is a beautiful word meaning sanctuary or place of refuge, and the word "hospital" means a place for the reception of suffering or infirm. He is, however, wrong in his original statement that he neither in their original sense had anything to do with medical treatment—for example, St. Mary's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals at Chichester. The former is still an alms-house, and so was the "hospital" to "hospital" was made owing to the degrading influence of the public mind of the former word.

Sensitiveness to Stycrine

Lt.-Col. C. A. Baker, R.N.V.R., writes: Dr. D. R. C. Shepherd's account of his case of sensitiveness to stycrine (Nov. 25, p. 694) recalled to mind a similar happening in my own experience. A married woman aged 36, a cook by practice, had been under my care for a week suffering from a heavy cold. On returning to she shewed a disordered left eye and asked for a tonic. I gave her a mixture of iron and stycrine containing two minims of liq. stych. hyd. to the dose. I also was hastily summoned to find the patient collapsed cold, pale, and almost pulseless within ten minutes of taking the first dose. Though I was alarmed about the attack being due to such a small dose of stycrine I could discover no other cause and was not prepared to experiment further. There was no previous history of sensitivity to the drug, but then, as the patient said, seldom had to take any medicine. Fortunately no ill was felt after the patient quickly recovered, and was given a stycrine-free mixture.

Gauze Impregnated with Paraffin

Messrs. Johnson and Johnson (Great Britain) Ltd. write: We would draw attention to the question raised by the Editor of Dec. 30, 1944, entitled "Curtain Net Impregnated with Paraffin." This product was manufactured by us for many years under the name "poroxaz" gauze, and was demonstrated extensively on several occasions at the London Medical Exhibition. It was ordered and listed for the occasion by the British Medical Exhibition. It was listed and illustrated for several years in our catalogue, and we would be grateful if due acknowledgment could be made of these circumstances in your Journal.

Corrigenda

The duration of pregnancy in the cases of "A.J.D." reported in the Journal of Jan. 13 (p. 43) is given as "45 weeks." The sentence should, of course, read "terminated successfully at 35 weeks.

The medicolegal note headed "A Fatal Overdose of Carbachol" published on Jan. 13 stated, incorrectly, that the report of the inquest appeared in our Issue of July 4, 1944. The date should have been July 4, 1942 (p. 28).