LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

LETTERS, Notes, and Answers.

ORIGINAI ARTICLES AND LETTERS forwarded for publication are submitted, together with their names, of course, unless otherwise stated.

Correspondents are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS forwarded to the OFFICE of this JOURNAL cannot under any circumstances be returned.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters of the following business of the Journal should be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the Journal, and not at his private house.

Corresponding Editors should be addressed to the Editor, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.: those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the Journal, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.

Correspondents desiring reprint of their articles published in the British Medical Journal are requested to communicate with the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, W.C., on receipt of proof.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS.—The telegraphic address of the EDITOR of the British Medical Journal is Aitlock, London. The telegraphic address of the MANAGER of the British Medical Journal is Aitlock, London.

TELEPHONE (National) :

EDITOR, 6, Catherine Street, W.C. : 2631, Gerrard. General Secretary and Manager, 6, Catherine Street, W.C., on receipt of proof, 2630, Gerrard.

11 Query, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the British Medical Journal are devoted will be sent under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

I11 We would request correspondents who desire to ask questions in this column not to make use of such signatures as "A Member," "A Member B.M.A.," "Enquirer," and so on. By asking questions thus, the opportunity of full and unhesitating answers would be avoided.

Correspondents are asked to write upon one side of the paper only.

Hibernian would like to know if there are any special dangers attending the unpleasant smell in living in the vicinity of gasworks.

Navy Surgeon would be glad of suggestions for treatment of a man suffering from maxillary bipharyngitis. He has been in the form round roots of lashes accompanied by congestion; no inflammation. Silver salts have been tried, also zinc and boric ointments.

Dr. Inman's "Myalgia.

Dr. Wm. Cash Reed (51, Prince's Avenue, Liverpool) desires to borrow for a few days a copy of Inman's Myalgia, referred to in a recent interesting paper in the Journal by Dr. Keith of Birkenhead.

PRESCRIBING CHEMISTS.

AGREED WRITE:

Within the last few months in the conduct of my practice the following cases have occurred. Have I a remedy? (1) A young woman suffering from complete obstruction, with "black draught," by a chemist. Only immediate operation saved the life. (2) A man suffering from fractured skull is prescribed half a dozen "iron pills" by a chemist. Only operation saved the life. (5) Last week a man was suffering from sciatica. He has been given medicine from the chemist, according to the chemist's prescription. On one hand he received two doses of purgative medicine, and I was called in that night to find him suffering from complete obstruction and peritonitis. He died in a few hours. Am I justified in issuing a death certificate for peritonitis? Numerous cases occur in my practice, but these few will illustrate how I suffer from a prescribing chemist.

EMERGENCY WORK ON BOARD SHIP.

A correspondent asks my opinion on the following point: He is a medical officer on board, who, by the terms of his appointment, is entitled to private practice and a free passage on authorized occasions to and from the country in which he serves. The cost of the latter he regards as part of the emoluments of his office. Recently on a voyage home the ship's medical officer fell ill, and, in consequence, our correspondent performed his duties for sixteen days. He did not want any work, but did it out of courtesy to his colleague, who was worrying himself over the matter. There was a good deal of sickness on board. On arrival in England he was offered the services of a company a fee of 6d. a day as remuneration for his services. This he declined, considering that the basis of his payment, for the ship's medical officer, was that he was acting plus the salary of the ship's medical officer. Was he right or wrong?

It seems to have been one of those occasions on which it is well for medical men to stand out for their full rights, whatever they may be, and our correspondent would be better advised, perhaps, to take a cheque for £10 as a remuneration of the services rendered alike to the company and to his colleague.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE URETHRA.

We have received a communication from Dr. Laird Pearson, of Driffield, Yorkshire, in which he states that a patient, a married man, aged 40, recently presented himself having in his urethra a haemat in with a common black glass head and a shaft about 6 in. long. It had been inserted head first, and the point was imbedded in the tissues about 1 1/2 in. from the meatus. The head had not entered the bladder, and the removal of one shaft below the head in its original position and at the same time drove the point out through the surface of the penis by pressing on the latter. Q. Then where did the attack come from? I think the consensus of opinion regards any form of cancer, except epitheliums, as a constitutional disease, the "part attacked," being only the manifestation of the disease. If removed early it can be frequently cured," suggests exact meaning of cure, required to prove statement, "If the wound bleeds on touch, this generally means cancer." This depends altogether on how it was touched and how often.

ERRATUM.

We regret that, owing to a printer's error, the name of the writer of the article on "A Case of Eclectic Gestation, with Unusually Early Symptoms," which appeared in the Journal of May 16th, was incorrectly given. The author's name should have been E. A. Seale, not E. A. Searle.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

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All remittances by Post Office Order should be payable to the British Medical Association at the General Post Office, London. No responsibility will be accepted for any such remittance not so safeguarded.

Advertisements should be delivered, addressed to the Manager, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, not later than first post on Wednesday morning preceding publication; and if not paid for at such time, should be accompanied by stamped envelopes.

N.B.—It is against the rules of the Post Office to receive letters at Posts Restantes addressed either in initials or numbers.

ANSWERS.

RENLEM.—Qualitative analysis of the proprietary article "C. B. Q." shows it to contain potassium iodide (about 1% in each tablet), a small quantity of salicylate, magnesia, and a vegetable extract; the latter is theospermic, and the magnesia is doubt employed to facilitate its production in a form suitable for tablet making. The extract is slight, but showed no characteristic property which would serve for its identification; a small amount of alkaloid is present, which does not agree in properties with any of the common medicinal alkaloids.

TREATMENT OF PROSIASIS.

R. M. writes, in reply to "H. C. J.": In obstinate psoriasis excellent results have been obtained by the use of large measured doses of x-rays, which should not be so large as to produce erythema and oedema. The treatment is slow but promising, and the patient should keep just short of that which I would strongly advise a trial.

Dr. Wherley (Dudley, Northumberland) writes: If "H. C. J." will communicate with me he will give me the loan of an apparatus on the local treatment of psoriasis.


Dr. H. J. Thorp (Ipwich) writes: In reply to "H. C. J." for treatment of psoriasis, I would suggest for his patient: Cinchonin gr. 3. Locally, remove crusts from skin with soft soap and water, and then the following lotion to be spread freely over three times a week: Silver nitrate 5 min., coal tar 3 min., of the latter. FL. lotis.

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