Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

Queries.

I. R. C. asks whether there is any better astrigent local application for chronic internal haemorrhoids than the old ung. gallicae olio.

R. D. would be grateful for information of Dr. Thomas Goodman, whose appointment as Physician-in-Ordinary to King George II appears in the London Gazette, October 7th, 1725. He does not appear in Mr. Mark's Dictionary of National Biography.

TREATMENT OF FLAT-FOOT.

Boomin asks for advice in the treatment of flat-foot. He has tried the effect of the Swedish exercise termed "heels raised" which means walking round for a few minutes on the toes with the heels raised off the ground. He supposes in some cases it makes the condition worse. He wishes to know whether an arch instep would be of use as a curative agent.

COPPER.

M.D., D.P.H., writes: I should like to know whether it is generally recognized that Java is less deleterious to the nervous system than "Mocha"? That has been my experience in my own circle, and I have recently heard such an assertion made by my cook, a German, as if it were a well-known fact. The Java has another advantage—it is much cheaper.

Income Tax.

One in Difficulty writes: A. B. and C. are partners. The profits of the practice are divided as follows: A. receives one-third, B. and C. each one-quarter. C. leaves the partnership on September 30th, 1909, and his part of the practice is sold to D., while A. and B. continue in partnership and make a new profit-sharing agreement whereby A. receives one-third and B. one-third. In assessing his income for income tax, B., in April 1910, sends a form No. II, calculating his income from the average of the three years ending March 31st, 1910—that is, on a quarter share of profits received from April 1st, 1910, to March 31st, 1910; from April 1st, 1909, to March 31st, 1909; from April 1st, 1909, to September 30th, 1909; and one-third share of profits received from October, 1909, to March 31st, 1910. In October, 1910, the surveyor of taxes informs B. that "in estimating the averages it is not a question of averaging the income of A. and B., but of averaging the profits of the practice, and, in arriving at the average, the actual profits of the practice, including C.'s profit, must be taken for the three years ending in 1909, and the average figure be a figure for the assessment for 1910-11, and this assessment will be divisible as between A. and B., in accordance with the profits of each under the arrangement." The surveyor sees that this method would be disadvantageous to A. and B., and therefore wishes their income to be assessed on the actual profits received by each partner during the first year of the new agreement—that is, from October 1st, 1909, to September 30th, 1910. B. maintains the method of working used, and if this method be adopted by B. Will the method proposed by the tax officer be in accordance with the system of the Income Tax Acts, and B. cannot insist on its adoption. He will be well advised to accept the solution proposed by the surveyor.

Dermatitis Exfoliativa.

R. F. O. writes: I have a somewhat serious case of dermatitis exfoliativa, of a relapsing character. It has supervened on a severe attack of influenza, five weeks since. In that time he has had three attacks of the desquamation, each attack lasting two weeks, pricking heat, pricking heat, headache (left side), dimness of sight, temperature rising to about 102° and malaise, with very febrile urine. He got over the illness much better than most cases, and got up. He was treated with sodium salicylate, and after getting up with an attack of pricking heat, there was some irritation of the skin, arsenic with it. He did well for a few days, and then developed the first attack, which did not seem to be so very severe, but each one was more and more severe. The body was and had been before attack red all over, but no other diagnosis but that of dermatitis exfoliativa. I am treating the attacks as they recur with a diuretic mixture, rest in bed, and careful diet, and no stimulants.

Answers.

R. H. S.—We have made inquiries of a number of bacteriological experts, and it appears that no any description of a serum treatment of diabetes mellitus. This disease has, we believe, been treated by means of a vaccine on one or two occasions. Dr. Brown published accounts of the results of case or cases of the results can be found.

F. D.—Our correspondent will find details of the treatment as to which he asks for information in Professor W. K. Latham's Pathology and Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis (Deighton, Bell and Company, Cambridge, or George Bell and Sons, London, price Is. 6d.).

SOCIOLoGy.—A simple treatment of a highly complex and controversial subject like the modern doctrines of immunity does not exist, and some of the works are less technical than others. Among the simplest, and perhaps the nearest surveys with which we are acquainted we should place Dr. D. E. T. E. Br. My book, Immunity and Specific Therapy (Lawis, 1939), and the chapter on immunity in Collin's Dictionary of Science, System of Medicine, written by Professor Ritchie, among the first and best.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS.

Dr. J. F. Burton (Nottingham) writes: "Rheumatism" would find the remedy he needs for rheumatoid arthritis, but he finds the condition one of chronic pain; his</p>