

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

John Hilton

Lieut.-Colonel L. A. HODGKINSON LACK, I.M.S., Principal of the Medical College, Rangoon, writes: Can any one of your readers let me know where, how, and at what cost it would be possible to get a portrait of John Hilton which could be hung up in the dissecting room of the college?

Ultra-violet Rays in Atmosphere

Dr. R. H. NORMAN (Seaton, Devon) writes: I shall be grateful if any reader of the *Journal* will inform me of the method, or methods, used for actually estimating the amount of ultra-violet light in the atmosphere.

Softening the Beard

"W. B. D." writes: As shaving is becoming more difficult and painful, despite the trial of various razors, I would appreciate any hints which would tend to soften the beard or harden the skin. Even a shave by a barber is not without marked discomfort at times.

Income Tax

Replacement of Car

"M. F." had a car which cost £164, and on June 30th, 1932, sold it for £60 and bought another car for £240. He makes his accounts up annually to January 30th. What claims should he make?

** The simplest way of dealing with the matter—is depreciation has not been claimed in the past—is to claim cost of replacement. The amount to be claimed will be £164 - £60 = £104, and it will have to be regarded as an expense of the year ending January 30th, 1933, and so will not affect his present income tax liability. When making his return for 1934-5 he should claim the "depreciation" allowance: it cannot be claimed for 1933-4, as that year will be affected by the "replacement" claim, and the one excludes the other.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Ross Award Fund

Sir JAMES BARR (Chairman of Committee, Ross Award Fund) writes: I beg to inform you that the total sum raised for Sir Ronald Ross amounted to £15,513 5s. 6d. Thanks to this fund, Sir Ronald Ross's anxiety for the late Lady Ross was removed, and his declining years are being made happier. The fund is now closed.

Physical Medicine

Dr. MATHER THOMSON (London, S.W.7) writes: In your issue of September 10th Dr. C. B. Heald has a scathing reference to the work of Abrams, and refers particularly to a diagnostic test which failed. In May, 1922, I demonstrated the "reactions of Abrams" to Dr. Heald and two of his friends under exacting conditions. Dr. Heald reported that it was an extraordinary demonstration, and that the results called for a proper investigation, and advised that a specially

selected delegation should visit Abrams's clinic in San Francisco. Further, Dr. Heald, I believe, was one of the signatories to the "Horner Report," which contained the following statement: "The fundamental proposition originally announced by Dr. Albert Abrams must be regarded as established to a very high degree of probability." Comment is not necessary. With regard to Abrams's oscilloclast, proof of its value in the treatment of chronic disease can easily be obtained.

DRS. OSCAR PARKES and ERIC PERKINS (London, W.) write: Dr. C. B. Heald accuses the authors of *The Detection of Disease* of omitting or misrepresenting an important fact relating to himself with regard to the electronic reactions of Abrams. He does not deny that the existence of these reactions was definitely established by the Horner Committee, of which he was a member. Nor does he deny his own statement (on page 37 of the report), to the effect that he, like Sir Thomas Horner, acted as subject, and definitely felt the reactions. But he does complain that the authors of *The Detection of Disease* omitted to specify the apparatus which was used on this occasion. Will he therefore turn to page 31, where he will find words which should be sufficiently obvious to anyone who understands plain English: "This [the emanometer of Boyd] was the tuning device used during the sessions of the Horner committee." . . . The authors weighed every word they wrote, and they believe that every word is strictly in accordance with the truth. Their plea was, and is, a very modest one, their sole desire being to arouse interest, so that further investigations shall be made, not necessarily by doctors, but in the first place by expert physicists, without medical bickering, and that better brains than their own shall bring the methods of Abrams to even greater perfection and the personal equation be eliminated. Since Dr. Heald and his colleagues declared in their report that their work must be elaborated and continued—"so that the nature, the significance, and the practical application of the facts they [sic] had brought to light might be fully studied"—why do they remain, after eight years, inactive, and even hostile?

A Warning

The Chief Constable of South Shields asks that attention be drawn to a man who falsely represents himself as "Dr. John Alexander Tolmie," on holiday from Canada. This man is identical with Andrew John Gibson, who has a number of convictions for obtaining money by fraud, etc., in New South Wales, San Quentin (California), San Francisco, Durban and Johannesburg (South Africa), Hants Assizes (from Bournemouth). In South Shields he got into conversation with a local practitioner, and was introduced by the latter to his bank manager, to whom he presented a bogus deposit certificate demand note for ten thousand dollars, drawn on the Provincial Treasurer's Office, Edmonton, Canada, and was given possession of a cheque book containing thirty cheques, Nos. H/2 A. 17731 to H/2 A. 17760. He cashed a number of cheques, and is now wanted on warrant. He also entered into an agreement for partnership with the local doctor. "Dr. Tolmie" is described as: Aged 52 years, height 5 ft. 7½ in., complexion fresh, hair grey, eyes grey, small cyst on right side of face, indistinct dot on right forearm. It is desired that should he visit any practitioner information be immediately given to the local police.

The current *Medical Register* shows two practitioners of the name John Alexander Tolmie. Steps have been taken to inform one of them, who lives at Taber, Alt., Canada, of the circumstances related above. Dr. J. A. Tolmie of Hull writes to say that he has never heard of the impostor, nor has he any knowledge whatever of him.

Correction

Dr. C. A. MORTLOCK-BROWN (Braunton) wishes to correct the report of her contribution to the discussion in the Public Health Section on paratyphoid and the water supply (August 20th, p. 372). "Chloride and ammonia" should read "chlorine, ammonia, and sulphites."

We are asked by Messrs. Derby and Co., Ltd., gold, silver, and platinum refiners, 27, Finsbury Square, E.C.2, to say that they are prepared to hire radium to medical practitioners at short notice and on reasonable terms.

Vacancies

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 47, 48, 49, and 53 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 51 and 52.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 180.