LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS

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**QUERIES AND ANSWERS**

**Removal of Tattoo Marks**

Dr. George Steane (Erdington) writes: Is it possible to remove or obliterate tattoo marks?

**Spontaneous Rupture of Extensor Tendons**

Dr. George Steane (Erdington) writes: Are there any cases on record of spontaneous rupture of the extensor tendons of the wrist and fingers?

**Removal of Urine Stains from Clothing**

"M.B." (Bath) is anxious to have the name of a chemical preparation which will remove urine stains from clothing, for use in a patient who suffers from incontinence. He would be glad if any reader could assist him.

**Local Anaesthetic for Nasal Work**

Colonel G. F. Rowcroft (Coonoor, India) writes: With all the uncomfortable anaesthetics now being introduced, has nothing yet been discovered that will take the place of cocaine as a local anaesthetic for the mucous membrane of the nose by surface application, not injection? One occasionally comes across a patient who has a violent idio-synecrasy to cocaine, and nothing as an alternative appears to be available except a general anaesthetic, or some form of injection, often both undesirable, as, for example, such a simple procedure as passing a Eustachian catheter. One that would give analgesia sufficiently prolonged for a sub-mucous resection would be ideal. Any enlightenment on this point will be thankfully received.

**Head and Foot Presentation**

Dr. Alastair C. Thomson (Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincs) writes: On July 27th I was called by a district nurse to a woman in labour. She was a multipara, and had been losing liquor amnii for four days. The confinement had not been expected until mid-September. On pelvic examination I found a head presenting, to one side of it, ten "digits" the whole being tightly wedged in the cervical canal. Under deep anaesthesia I was able to push back the head, when I found the "digits" to be toes in a vaginal presentation. I performed a combined internal and external version, and delivered a 8½ lb. male child (in the breech manner). Artificial respiration was required for a little time, but the child did very well later, and continues to thrive. The mother made an uninterrupted recovery. The child's legs at birth were early put into the position of genu recurvatum—obviously due to its position in utero—but these now look almost normal. My textbook of obstetrics does not make any reference to this "head and foot" presentation, and I am wondering if any of your readers can tell me if this is a particularly unusual occurrence.

**Holidays for Factory Girls**

We have received the following letter signed on behalf of the Factory Girls' Holiday Fund by the Countess of Sandwich, Mrs. Louisa Creighton, the Very Rev. Dr. Hertz, Lady Margaret Loch, Sir Thomas Barlow, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite:

May we appeal to your kind readers for help for the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund, which is in urgent need of financial assistance. It may be questioned whether any of us ever outgrow the twang of our fatherland—certainly the fact is that the idea yearly increases its hold on our sense of what is due to us. Doctors recommend a holiday to their patients, and why, if they have the means, not offer such a holiday to the girls for whom we are known for all the evil effects of overwork and fatigue; it is part of the routine of all our lives—but not, alas! of the lives that probably need it most. The girl who works all day in factory or shop, the woman who looks after her home and also cleans offices in the late evening and very early morning, have little money to pay for what to us is a necessity, but to them an unattainable luxury. When what they earn is wanted for family, rent, food, and clothing, in these days of unemployed men and boys, how can one individual, herself often the breadwinner who holds the house together, set aside even a few pence week so as to go away and enjoy herself and a change of scene? We deplore the scanty knowledge and appreciation that town and country people have of one another; what better way to cure this than to send the girls of the busy towns and villages to the home counties? Many of us have thankfully remembered all through our lives some kind hostess who invited us to stay, or some fairy godmother who paid for us to travel, the odious word "parent" not having such a case. Why should not we who spend pounds on the vacations of ourselves and our families be allowed, and, indeed, urged, to spend similarly on the much-needed holidays of those of whom we cannot pay for themselves? We deplore the scanty knowledge and appreciation that town and country people have of one another; what better way to cure this than to send the girls of the busy towns and villages to the home counties? Many of us have thankfully remembered all through our lives some kind hostess who invited us to stay, or some fairy godmother who paid for us to travel, the odious word "parent" not having such a case. Why should not we who spend pounds on the vacations of ourselves and our families be allowed, and, indeed, urged, to spend similarly on the much-needed holidays of those of whom we cannot pay for themselves?

**Novocain and Cocaine**

In a report of a recent inquest it was stated that novocain is a preparation of cocaine. The Saccharin Corporation, Ltd., the sole distributors of the former drug in this country, point out that it is not a preparation of cocaine, and that the latter does not enter in any form into the manufacture of novocain.

**Section of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

Correction

Professor F. J. Brown (University College Hospital) writes: Will you please allow me to correct an error in the report (Journal, August 11th, p. 266) of my remarks in the course of the discussion on "Ovarian Conditions as a Cause of Pelvic Pain." I did not say that pain was a common symptom of ovarian tumours, but only of malignant tumours. I was with this statement that Professor Douglas expressed his disagreement (p. 267).

**Vacancies**

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 38 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenancies at pages 34 and 35.

A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the Supplement at page 156.