

## Letters, Notes, and Answers

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### QUERIES AND ANSWERS

#### *Polyphagia or Bulimia*

"GAF" writes: Can anyone explain why a patient (male) of 73 should have an enormous appetite and have no trace of glycosuria? Blood pressure a little high, but not much, but a constant desire to eat. Belladonna extract has been given with no effect.

#### *Shoe with Open Heel*

Dr. H. GRANT MCPHERSON, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire, writes: Several years ago I saw mentioned in the *British Medical Journal*, I think, a special type of shoe which had an opening at the back of the heel. This was for use by patients who have a callosity on the posterior surface of the os calcis below the insertion of the tendo Achillis. I should be very much obliged if you could find out for me the maker of these shoes.

\*\* We cannot trace the reference in our files.

#### *Pruritus Vulvae et Ani*

ALLEN AND HANBURY LTD. (Bethnal Green, E.2) write: With reference to the inquiry by "Perplexed" (November 23rd, p. 1029) and the answer by "F. W. M." on December 14th (p. 1189), recommending A.B.A., may we add that we are now supplying a preparation that constitutes an improvement on A.B.A. This preparation is called "proctocaine," and its properties and uses were described in detail in the article on "Oil-Soluble Anaesthetics in Rectal Surgery" in your issue of November 16th (p. 938). "Proctocaine" has the advantages of immediate and very much prolonged anaesthetic action.

#### *Income Tax*

##### *Purchase of House*

"H. G." bought his residence on September 1st, 1934. The net annual value is £28 10s. and he pays £25 10s. interest on mortgage. How should he show these in his returns? He is a partner, and had a fixed salary up to December 31st, 1934.

\*\* Income from property is assessable on the current year's basis, consequently in the declaration for the year to April 5th, 1935, he should show 7/12 of £28 10s. and in the return for the current year the whole amount. Mortgage charges and bank interest should be shown similarly in the space provided. In his detailed calculation the earned income relief is wrong—it should be 1/5 of (£320 - £24 10s. depreciation), and the 1s. 6d. reduced rate applies to 1935-6 but not to 1934-5.

#### *Irish Free State*

"J. C. M." asks: Is residence in the Irish Free State included in computing residence in Great Britain for income tax purposes?

\*\* The phrase used in the Income Tax Acts in dealing with residence is "the United Kingdom," which, prima facie, includes the Irish Free State. The effect, however, of Section 14 (2) of the Finance Act, 1923-4, is to require that phrase to be read as if it were "Great Britain and Northern Ireland," and the Irish Free State therefore ranks, for income tax purposes, as a Dominion.

### LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

#### *Tubercu'os's in Cardiff*

Dr. J. GREENWOOD WILSON (Medical Officer of Health, Cardiff) writes: I desire to thank your annotator for his admirable notes on those portions of my annual report for 1934 relating to tuberculosis (*Journal*, December 7th, p. 1122). He has evidently omitted from his study no detail of any portion of the report that bears on the subject, and has assembled a most convenient summary of all the facts relating thereto which are contained in my annual report for 1934. I shall find it most useful for reference, and, indeed, for rapid reference more convenient than the original report.

#### *Urine as a Remedy*

Dr. E. IDRIS JONES (London, S.E.24) writes: Dr. Parkes Weber's communication on "How Surgical Maggots Act" (December 14th, p. 1179) refers to the use of fresh warm human urine as a popular remedy on the Continent for cuts, abrasions, etc. In parts of Wales this custom is still prevalent. To micturate on minor cuts is a common custom, and for chapped hands an ablation in warm urine is a remedy which is undoubtedly efficacious.

#### *Bogus Collections for Hospitals*

The council of the British Hospitals Association (12, Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1) asks us to give publicity to a communication which it has sent to every voluntary hospital in the country: The council is much concerned at the increase in the number of bogus collections made in the name of hospitals, and is anxious to check this abuse. It suggests to hospital committees that before entering into any contract with an outside agency to raise money for their institutions by the collection of waste they should first submit particulars to the association for investigation. In this work it has secured the co-operation of the Charity Organization Society, which is in possession of a great deal of information and is equally anxious to protect hospitals from this form of abuse. "At the moment there is no doubt whatever that much of the money which the public, in ignorance, believe to be going to hospitals is in reality going into the pockets of those who make use of the word 'hospital' for their own ends."

#### *"The MacLean Stomach Powder"*

"COLONIAL MEDICAL OFFICER" writes from West Africa: Professor Hugh MacLean, in his letter to the *British Medical Journal* of October 19th (p. 759), did not mention whether there was any difference between his own prescription and that of the proprietary brand. That there is a marked dissimilarity is obvious from patients' remarks. I have recently had a patient with symptoms pointing to a gastric ulcer for which another doctor had prescribed the proprietary brand with rather poor results. As soon as I put him on Professor MacLean's powders he, without inquiry, volunteered the statement that not only did the second powders taste differently, but that the effect was to abolish entirely the pain for a much longer interval than was the case with the other powders. I give the above account without comment.

#### *Corrigendum*

We regret that on page 1182 of our issue for December 14th, through a lapse of the printing department, the subscription of the British Institute of Philosophy was wrongly given. It should have been £1 1s. *per annum*, not quarterly.

#### *Vacancies*

Notifications of offices vacant in universities, medical colleges, and of vacant resident and other appointments at hospitals, will be found at pages 34, 36, 37, 39, and 40 of our advertisement columns, and advertisements as to partnerships, assistantships, and locumtenencies at pages 38 and 39. A short summary of vacant posts notified in the advertisement columns appears in the *Supplement* at page 288.