

Letters, Notes, and Answers

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QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Ultra-violet Irradiation

"ULTRA-VIOLET" writes: I would be much obliged for information as to the present position of ultra-violet medication for people who are in tolerably normal health, but who for one reason or another are run down, overworked, etc. Is it likely to be of any assistance to them, and is there any objection to its frequent use over a period of years?

Vaccine Reactions

Dr. C. M. HEANLEY (Hassocks, Sussex), in reply to "Rural G.P." (*Journal*, August 14, p. 358), writes: What is meant by "persistently overdosed"? After experiments in South Africa doses of 6,000 to 7,000 millions of pneumococci at seven-day intervals were recommended as a suitable prophylactic. The trouble may be due to other organisms, perhaps in a blocked maxillary, frontal, or ethmoidal sinus, and not to the vaccine.

Cancrum Oris

Mr. G. H. PEAKE (Guildford), in reply to Dr. Hope Trant (*Journal*, July 3, p. 48), writes: I saw many cases of cancrum oris among the natives of Madagascar, and treated them by burning the base of the ulcerated surface very thoroughly with fuming nitric acid. My first case was that of a child aged 2. The sore, which began on the inside of the upper lip (left side), had perforated right through it; it did not appear to be painful, as the child was suckling well. There was a sanious and stinking discharge. Under light anaesthesia the wound was thoroughly cauterized with pure nitric acid. Four days later this was repeated, as the sore had spread. Five days after that a large piece of the superior maxilla came away with several teeth. The cavity was again thoroughly burnt. The wound was washed several times daily with lotio hydrarg. perchlor., 1 in 4,000, and stimulants were given. Three days later the wound had much improved and there was no sign of any further spread, but a new focus had started on the inner side of the right upper lip. The whole was cauterized again. This application checked the disease and the sore healed rapidly. Though the hole in the lip (and upper jaw) had been very extensive, the lip contracted and almost closed, leaving very little deformity. Out of seven subsequent cases treated in the same way one patient died. In this case the condition started in the left ear and the child died of exhaustion with cerebral symptoms.

LETTERS, NOTES, ETC.

Dangers of Glass Ampoules

Lieut.-Colonel H. H. KING, C.I.E., I.M.S. (ret.), writes: While in charge of a laboratory in India I noticed that when ampoules in which a vacuum had been created were filled with vaccine the inrush of vaccine carried in small particles of glass from the breakage of the stem. On examination of the deposit from several ampoules many of the glass particles were found to be minute enough to pass through an ordinary small hypodermic needle, and they could thus be injected into a patient along with the vaccine. If there are any manufacturing or other laboratories using this method of filling ampoules they should know of this danger. I notice that some firms are putting out ampoules containing two solutions separated by a glass partition that has to be broken before the two substances are mixed. Has the possibility of the dissemination of small splinters of glass in these ampoules at the time of breakage been examined?

An Unusual Treatment

"BEN TROVATO, M.D.," writes: In an entertaining book of naval reminiscences entitled *My Mis-spent Youth*, I came across the following passage: "One of the younger midshipmen who had a rather high-pitched voice, was observed not to be developing properly. A special drill was invented. He was stood on the end of the gun-room table, facing outwards and quite stiff, and then his feet were knocked forward. He fell three or four feet with a jarring thud. A few weeks of this treatment had the desired effect." I should like to know whether this inexpensive but slightly barbaric treatment of the undescended testicle is one more proof of the resourcefulness of the Royal Navy, or whether it is traditionally practised by other communities to whom gonadotropic hormones are not available.

Holidays for Factory Girls

We have received the following appeal, signed by the Countess of Sandwich, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss May Wynne, Mrs. Mary M. Paget, the Bishop of London, the Chief Rabbi, and Lady Loch, on behalf of the Factory Girls' Holiday Fund. "Will you allow us to make to your readers an urgent appeal for the Factory Girls' Country Holiday Fund? It has helped hundreds of the poorest of London's girls and women to go away for the August Bank Holiday week, the only clear week they could get in the whole year. Many more are hoping to get away during the next weeks; but at present our funds are exhausted. A large number of the girls sent away are hardly more than big growing children, having recently left school for work in factories and warehouses. This summer holiday means even more than a health-giving change of air and surroundings. Boarded with kindly cottagers living in their own well-ordered little houses, the girls and women exchange with country folk experiences which make life fuller and more complete. Those from London gain, too, a new interest in nature—in the cultivation of flowers, and fruit, and vegetables, and in the care of animals. Think what this means to people who live for the rest of the year in crowded dwellings and stuffy streets, often far away from parks and large open spaces! A summer holiday means much to most of us. To them it means a benefit which is almost indescribable. Will your readers help us to save these girls from bitter disappointment? Gifts will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the honorary treasurer, Mrs. Slater, Lowood, Hindhead, Surrey, or by Miss Canney, 75, Lamb's Conduit Street, London, W.C.1."

Corrigenda

In the paragraph on Messrs. Hewlett's preparation of para-aminobenzenesulphonamide at page 217 of the *Journal* of July 31 the name of this product was given as "P.B.A.S." This should have read "P.A.B.S."

Dr. L. G. MILLAR PAGE writes: In my letter on prominal in epilepsy (*Journal*, August 21, p. 393) I said: "Dr. Millman has reported a reduction of one-third in the number of fits in a year under prominal. . . ." This should have read: "Dr. Millman has reported a reduction to one-third in the number of fits. . . ." Or, more correctly, to quote Dr. Millman, "The total number of fits under prominal treatment is shown to be approximately one-third of the number during a similar period under luminal therapy."