

of natural bristle. The hairdresser has disposed of all bristle brushes, and has had no trouble, so far as I know, since.

It seems that hairdressers are more vulnerable than they used to be to this nuisance. Girls who are well paid and well dressed and who have a "hair-do" at the best local salon may well come from homes where several younger brothers and sisters are heavily infested with head-lice.

I would like to thank Dr. J. B. Kershaw (Medical Officer of Health to the Hinckley U.D.C.) for his advice. We both felt that hairdressers might be glad to know of this problem. We also felt that not much seemed to be known of the practical techniques in keeping brushes and combs clean when in busy use. Has anyone, for instance, any authoritative advice about the efficacy of the little sterilizing cabinet which one sees in most barbers' shops?—I am, etc.,

Hinckley,
Leicestershire.

J. K. WATERLOW.

Needed in One

SIR,—I came across this unusual case while doing a locum in Blackpool. The patient described how in the act of driving off from the first tee he suddenly felt a stabbing pain in the thigh. Thinking he had been stung, he showed me a red raised patch on the inner and upper aspect of the right thigh consistent with a sting. Thinking that the inflammation would best be subdued by penicillin, I was surprised when he came back in a couple of days saying that he thought he could feel something sticking in his leg like a needle. X-ray and subsequent operation revealed a needle one-and-a-half inches long embedded in the muscle of the thigh.

Being a tailor by trade, it would appear that he had the habit of parking his needles somewhere in the top of his trousers, and evidently one had decided to go for a run and finish up in the way described.—I am, etc.,

Blackpool.

J. E. SWINBURNE-JONES.

Development of Live Polio Vaccine

SIR,—I have read the letter from Dr. D. E. Jeremiah (August 6, p. 468) concerning my article on "Historical Aspects of the Development of Live Virus Vaccine in Poliomyelitis" (July 9, p. 85). Dr. Jeremiah is mistaken if he thinks that, as a result of his letter, "We are confounded because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our face"—as expressed so aptly by his more famous namesake. Because of the discovery which my colleagues, Dr. George Jervis and Mr. Thomas W. Norton, and I made 10 years ago, 85 million people throughout the world have now been effectively vaccinated against poliomyelitis. It therefore seems rather pathetic to find that to-day there is still a voice crying (in the wilderness, we hope) for "protection" against "individuals carrying out such trials on people who have not volunteered." Although such a coincidence is highly improbable, it would have been catastrophic indeed if it had been Dr. Jeremiah whose permission was sought in 1950 for vaccinating the first group of children with live attenuated poliomyelitis vaccine. He would have recoiled in horror then, as he is doing to-day, and as he probably would have done at the scientific endeavours of Jenner and Theiler or anyone else engaged in "so-called experimental trials."

There are experiments conducted in human beings which could be easily and more successfully undertaken in laboratory animals, and these should be condemned unequivocally by everyone. However, in his horrified reference to the discovery of live polio vaccine, Dr. Jeremiah "is confounded by the graven image," since the only price which the first group of children to receive the oral polio vaccine have paid for undergoing this illusionary danger in 1950 is the "protection" of numerous vaccinated subjects throughout the world who otherwise might have succumbed to the paralytic disease. Even though Dr. Jeremiah might think he was chosen, as was his glorious namesake, to be "battle ax and weapon of war," what he is attacking in his letter is not the depraved Babylon but the windmills of La Mancha.—I am, etc.,

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HILARY KOPROWSKI.

900 Million Units of Penicillin and Still Going Strong

SIR,—An American youth entered my consulting-room, complaining of headache. He had ridden a motorcycle across Spain in the heat of August without wearing glasses. He could barely read half-way down an ordinary eye-chart for testing vision, but with glasses he could read the bottom line. On inquiring into his history I found he had had rheumatic fever 10 years ago and had taken 250,000 units of penicillin daily on almost every day since then. His father is a heart specialist in America, and when I questioned his father's approval he replied that perhaps his father was unduly cautious, but he approved of the treatment. Most of the penicillin had been taken orally, and my patient exhibited neither allergy nor mycotic infection, nor had he any other complaint than headache, which surely had nothing to do with penicillin.

I remember when there were only 30 grammes of penicillin in the world at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology in Oxford in 1940. It has gone a long way since then.—I am, etc.,

Tangier.

D. F. LITTLE.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

Effect of Physical Exercise on Alimentary Lipaemia

Dr. G. L. DAVIES (Bath) writes: Whilst the general principles on which the article by Dr. Harold Cohen and Miss Cissie Goldberg (August 13, p. 509) is based have no doubt occurred to many of us, I would like to add the observation that the great increase in coronary disease since the last war is, to my mind, connected with the great increase in motor traffic and the consequent decrease in bodily movement on the part of the population generally. . . . Since my partial retirement from practice a year or so ago I have walked many miles along country roads and have rarely met a single person on foot, whereas cars and motor-cycles seem to stand outside almost every cottage and council house. Even that formerly hard-working class, the farmer, rides all day on some motor vehicle or other, and young farmers will often use their tractors as a mode of conveyance for the few hundred yards which separate their farms from their cottages.

Correction.—We much regret that the letter by Mr. D. G. WILSON CLYNE in our issue for October 1 (p. 1020) was wrongly headed "Mental Health Tribunals" and wrongly made to refer to a letter by Dr. F. E. Graham-Bonnalie on this subject which appeared in our July 30 issue (p. 389). Mr. Wilson Clyne's letter in fact referred to the letter by Dr. Graham-Bonnalie published in our issue of September 17 (p. 861) on the subject of "Doctors' Letters" and was, of course, also concerned with the question of doctors' letters. We apologize for the confusion.