

Correspondence

Vasotonin and Dr. Fellner Again

To the Editor:—Being constantly annoyed by letters and requests to make the injections of vasotonin in cases of arteriosclerosis, as a result of the article in the *New York Times*, I ask your kind help to set me right in the eyes of the profession. The article which appeared in the Sunday edition of the *New York Times*, November 26, was entitled "Can Dreaded Hardening of Arteries now be Cured?" It referred to Dr. Bruno Fellner, Jr., of Franzensbad, Austria, who believes he has found an effective remedy against arteriosclerosis.

At the end of this article I find my name without any logical connection whatsoever, the writer of the article having copied a part of my paper on this subject.

In justice to myself I beg to state that I never heard of Dr. Fellner or his work before, and that my permission to copy a part of my article was never asked.

WILLY MEYER, New York.

[COMMENT.—This matter was referred to in *THE JOURNAL*, Dec. 9, 1911, page 1936.—EDITOR.]

The Hospital Service in the American Revolution

To the Editor:—In searching for a revolutionary fact I recently came across the following order of June 4, 1777, by Dr. W. Shippen, Jr., director general of the American Hospitals, and John Cochran, physician and surgeon general of army in the middle department, making certain historic appointments:

The liberal provision made by Congress in the new medicinal arrangements, joined with a humane desire to prevent the repetition of the distresses which afflicted the brave American soldiers in the last campaign, have drawn men of the first abilities into the field, to watch over the health and preserve the lives of the soldiers, many of them from very (exhaustive?) and profitable practice, and every species of domestic happiness. Dr. William Brown of Virginia, Dr. James Clark of Maryland and Dr. Thomas Bond, jun., of Philadelphia, are appointed Assistant Directors General. Dr. Walter Jones of Virginia and Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, Physician and Surgeon general of the hospitals of the middle department. Under these none (?) but gentlemen of the best education, and well qualified, are employed as senior physicians, surgeons, &c. The eastern and northern departments are filled with gentlemen of the first characters in these countries; and the public may depend on it, that the greatest exertions of skill and industry shall be constantly made, and no cost spared, to make the sick and wounded soldiery comfortable and happy. As a consequence of the above liberal arrangement of the Honorable Congress, we do, with great pleasure, and equal truth, assure the public (notwithstanding the many false and wicked reports propagated by the enemies of American Liberty, and only calculated to retard the recruiting service) that all the military hospitals of the United States are in excellent order, and that the army enjoy a degree of health seldom to be seen or read of.

W. SHIPPEN, Jun., Director General of the American Hospitals.
JOHN COCHRAN, Physician and Surgeon General of Army in the Middle Department.

Head Quarters, Middle Breck, June 4, 1777.

** It is requested that the above may be published in all the newspapers on the continent.
—*Connecticut Courant and Weekly and Hartford Intelligencer*, July 7, 1777.

Believing that the above may be of interest to some of the profession, I suggest that *THE JOURNAL* publish it and make it accessible.

G. M. BRUMBAUGH, Washington, D. C.

Active Sympathy with the Propaganda

To the Editor:—Your article on "The Mote and the Beam" is to the point. I wrote to two medical journals published in New York telling them to strike my name from their list of subscribers because they carried a Postum Cereal advertisement. Just as soon as a medical journal has a falling off of its paid subscribers, it will then "take notice and be good." Religious journals are dreadfully hungry for the "thirty pieces of silver." Their pseudomedical advertisements have the brazen face of the prostitute. Unfortunately, a number of these gullible readers accept every advertisement that appears in a religious journal as if it had the seal of Heaven stamped thereon. A Chicago gambler made the remark that a "sucker

was born every minute." From a close range study of some doctors, during a practice of seventeen years, I am forced to believe that the Chicago gambler had the medical profession in mind when he coined his famous epigram.

E. T. MILLIGAN, M.D., Detroit.

[COMMENT.—If many physicians show the same active sympathy with the propaganda work as that shown by our correspondent, the proprietary evil will receive the severest blow yet dealt. Without appearing hypercritical, we feel, nevertheless, that Dr. Milligan would have done more for the cause of scientific medicine had he told the publishers of the two journals to whom he wrote that he was cancelling his subscriptions because of the vicious medical advertisements that these journals carry—if this was his reason, as we believe it was. The readers of *THE JOURNAL* need not be told that it holds no brief for the Postum Cereal concern. It must be confessed, however, that the Postum Cereal advertisements do not compare in objectionableness with the advertisements of many of the nostrums carried by the two journals to which Dr. Milligan wrote. Advertisements of humbugs such as Antikannia, Papine, Ammonal, Phenalgin, etc., are infinitely more dangerous to the public and more harmful to scientific medicine than all of the breakfast foods or coffee substitute advertisements that were ever published. Yet we find all of them and many more exploited in the pages of the two journals for which our correspondent no longer subscribes—two pages are concerned, and journals that are supported by the leading members of the profession.—EDITOR.]

Queries and Minor Notes

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS will not be noticed. Every letter must contain the writer's name and address, but these will be omitted, on request.

ANIMAL LIFE IN THE HUMAN STOMACH

To the Editor:—Can you refer me to any authentic cases in which lizards or other form of animals foreign to the human stomach or intestines, have ever been found? Recently a female patient came under my observation with symptoms of some worm or other form of animal life in the stomach, which, she says, chokes her at times. Observation of stools does not reveal any signs of tapeworm. Treatment for tapeworm gave no results.

A. F. STOTTS, Galesburg, Ill.

ANSWER.—Roundworms have been vomited, but how long they have remained in the stomach is uncertain. So far as we know, there is no reliable evidence that the human stomach has harbored any animals higher in the zoologic scale than the worm. The conditions are such as to render this impossible or at least highly improbable. Patients come to believe that they harbor such animals because they experience sensations in the stomach, which are interpreted to mean that something is moving there and these sensations may give rise to a fixed insane idea that an animal is present in the stomach.

TEST FOR ACETONE IN URINE

To the Editor:—Kindly give a simple and accurate test for acetone in urine. All I find in text-books are complicated and I am not sure of their preciseness.

F. B. M.

ANSWER.—The tests given in the ordinary text-books can hardly be regarded as complicated, although some of them are less reliable than others. One of the simplest and the most reliable is that of Gunning. Gunning's test may be applied to the native urine but is more reliable if used with the distillate of the urine. It is made by adding to the urine or distillate a small amount of Lugol's solution and then treating with ammonia until a black precipitate of nitrogen iodid is produced. This disappears on standing and in the presence of acetone is replaced by iodoform, which may be recognized by its odor and by its characteristic crystals.

RADIUM TEAS

To the Editor:—The newspapers are giving space to an account received by cablegram from Paris of what they call "radium teas"; that is, exposure to radium emanations for a number of hours, during which time the patients play cards or read and take tea. This pure guff or is it an actual scientific process?

C. H.

ANSWER.—This purports to be a scientific procedure. A short account of it will be found in this issue of *THE JOURNAL*, page 2111, abstract 50.

Dangerous goods, abbreviated DG, are substances that when transported are a risk to health, safety, property or the environment. Certain dangerous goods that pose risks even when not being transported are known as hazardous materials (syllabically abbreviated as HAZMAT or hazmat). Hazardous materials are often subject to chemical regulations. Hazmat teams are personnel specially trained to handle dangerous goods, which include materials that are radioactive, flammable, explosive, corrosive, oxidizing... 'The efficacy of open air treatment has been absolutely proven, and one has only to try it to discover its value.' Fresh Air is a Disinfectant. Patients treated outdoors were less likely to be exposed to the infectious germs that are often present in conventional hospital wards. They were breathing clean air in what must have been a largely sterile environment. We know this because, in the 1960s, Ministry of Defence scientists proved that fresh air is a natural disinfectant.[5] Something in it, which they called the Open Air Factor, is far more harmful to airborne bacteria and the influenza virus than indoor air. They couldn't identify exactly what the Open Air Factor is. Read more: China outpaces US in 5G wireless development. Consumers, the BfS added, should keep mobile phone calls to the shortest possible duration, write text messages and not make phone calls when reception is poor. The weaker the connection to the next communication tower, the more intensively the electromagnetic field of your smartphone works near the person making the phone call. People should ensure they only surf the internet on their smartphones or tablets when they have access to a WiFi network. Using a headset or earphones exposes you to less radiation than holding the phone to your ear.