

if one is fairly experienced in the observation of infantile ailments.—Yours, etc.,

N. GOPALAN, L.M.P.,
Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

TIRUVETIPURAM,
NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT.
19th July, 1927.

OSTELIN.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

DEAR SIR.—We have read with considerable interest the half-column appearing under the heading of Ostelin in the June issue of your paper. We would, however, draw your attention to an obvious printing error in the sentence stating that Ostelin contains the full Vitamin "A" content of cod-liver oil. This of course should read Vitamin "D."

With regard to the odour of certain samples to which you refer—it is unfortunately impossible in the present state of our knowledge to make an extract which shall be perfectly free from odour, and yet retain its full activity. Some of the earlier samples of Ostelin exhibited this odour in a more marked degree than present supplies, and even at the present time it is not possible to avoid variations in the odour, due partly to variations in the different batches of original oil.

However, there is no question of this odour denoting deterioration. Ostelin is not subject to fermentative changes, and keeps perfectly in the tropics, which is indeed one of its greatest advantages over ordinary cod-liver oil. The activity of our research chemists is constantly directed to improving our product, and we hope in time to overcome this problem of odour entirely. In the meantime we feel that to maintain full activity at all costs is the correct policy to pursue.

As there is a likelihood of your remarks creating misunderstanding in the minds of your numerous readers, you will perhaps be good enough to allow this letter a portion of your valuable space.—Yours, etc.,

"OSTELIN."

56, OSNABURGH STREET,
LONDON, N. W. 1.
21st July, 1927.

A NOTE ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOME OF THE DISEASES OF INDIA.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR.—With reference to Colonel Megaw's article on this subject in a recent issue of the *Gazette*, I should like to append the following notes.

Sandfly Fever.—I have diagnosed no cases in Assam, but when I was stationed at Cannanore, Malabar, in 1917-18 a number of cases of fever occurred amongst young officers which appeared to be typical of this disease. It was a mild, three-day fever. Biting sandflies were plentiful at the time, and I think I found a *Phlebotomus*, but cannot remember with certainty. As this was in the Madras Presidency, further inquiry there would be of interest.

Dengue.—I have spent about 20 years in tea estate districts in Assam, and although I have seen several cases, in every instance the patient had been to Calcutta, or on a river steamer trip. When I first arrived in Cachar in 1905, I immediately developed a severe attack of seven-day fever, evidently a Calcutta infection, and when the disease is epidemic in Calcutta cases occur in this way up here. I have never seen a case without the patient having been away, and although the disease might be missed amongst the coolies, the final diagnosis would be missed in my European patients. My impression is that *Stegomyia fasciata* is not commonly found, although *scutellaris* is plentiful.

Yaws.—I found occasional cases amongst coolies in Dibrugarh, and many cases in N.-W. Cachar (Dr. A. Powell's former practice), and in *South Sylhet*. I wonder if the disease afflicts to any extent the Sylhetis. The sub-assistant surgeons, at any rate the class we get

on tea estates, do not appear to recognise the disease, and put it down as syphilis.

Kala-azar.—The Luskerpore Valley, in which my present practice is situated, is in South Sylhet, bordering on Hill Tipperah and Eastern Bengal, and in these adjoining areas where kala-azar appears to be rampant. Yet the only cases I have had have been two or three on one garden, which borders on Tipperah and is rather outside the district proper, and a few cases in the babu class, which were obviously imported. The difference is probably due to absence, or scarcity, of the carrier, for, although I do not pretend to have made a systematic search, I have not found a *Phlebotomus* among the small biting flies examined. The distribution is in contradistinction to malaria, for if the general terrain were as favourable for the latter disease as it is on the tea estates, the local Bengali, lacking resistance and treatment, would in all probability be wiped out. This local distribution of kala-azar bears out how difficult it is to affirm that a disease is non-existent in a province or district.

Typhoid Fever.—Cases are found occasionally in both Europeans and Indians. During my term I have had only four cases in the former. The European is in youth so susceptible to this disease, that, if it were as prevalent as is suggested, many more cases would be expected, more especially as the young assistants are dependent for domestic service on unreliable and not too cleanly coolies.—Yours, etc.,

R. A. MURPHY,
Medical Officer.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,
LUSKERPORE VALLEY.
17th June, 1927.

Service Notes.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

Major S. M. Hepworth, M.B., I.M.S., is appointed temporarily to act as Superintendent, X-ray Institute, Dehra Dun, with effect from the forenoon of 3rd August, 1927, until further orders.

The undermentioned officers are appointed substantively to the Medical Research Department, with effect from the 8th August, 1927:—

Major S. S. Sokhey, I.M.S.
Major G. Covell, M.D., I.M.S.

PROMOTIONS.

To be Brevet Colonel.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. D. A. Keys, C.I.E., I.M.S.

To be Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

Major J. Scott, D.S.O., O.B.E., I.M.S.

The promotion to present rank of Major B. Z. Shah, I.M.S., notified in Army Department Notification No. 1552, dated the 17th December, 1926, is antedated from the 5th November, 1926 to the 5th May, 1926.

Captains to be Majors.

W. J. Webster, M.C., M.B. Dated 16th August, 1927.
C. E. A. Smith. Dated 1st August, 1927.
K. S. Master, M.C., M.B. Dated 10th August, 1927.
S. R. Prall, M.B. Dated 18th August, 1927.

Lieutenants to be Captains.

Robert Linton, M.B., I.M.S. Dated 29th November, 1926.
Alastair Tait, M.B., I.M.S. Dated 22nd December, 1926.
James Forrest Shepherd, M.B., I.M.S. Dated 29th February, 1927.

RETIREMENTS.

Colonel E. L. Perry, D.S.O., K.H.S., I.M.S., retires, 24th June, 1927.
Lieutenant-Colonel L. P. Stephen, M.B., F.R.C.S.E., retires, 4th July, 1927.

MISCELLANEOUS.

With reference to Army Department Notification No. 2649, dated the 15th August, 1919, the Governor-