

'pug' and his affect was inappropriate. He had been a paratrooper and as an amateur over the previous ten years he had had nearly 500 bouts. The statistics of this young man's efforts are quite fantastic! I examined him and was unable to find any central nervous system abnormalities, other than his euphoria. He was 'punch drunk'. I warned him that if he continued boxing he was endangering not only his health but possibly his life. He took no notice of my admonitions, continued to box and no more than a month later had a grand mal seizure in Shepherd's Bush and landed up in the Postgraduate Hospital in Hammersmith where he had a craniotomy. From then on he earned a precarious living breeding dogs and was intellectually severely impaired. All people who are devotees of boxing will say a "Most unusual circumstance and case". I must hasten to add that I too am a devotee of boxing and am not just spreading alarm and despondency. I was not aware at that time how to stop this young man from boxing and forcing him to submit to a full assessment by a medical officer of the ABA. Doctors should realize that they only have to write to the ABA and explain the situation concerning a patient in order to get that boxer completely reassessed, an EEG performed, and if deemed advisable his card withdrawn and the man not allowed to box again.

When I was a boxing medical officer, the boxers had cards of different colour which they carried with them and these cards had to be presented at the time of the bout. Without this card, the boxer may not fight. I presume that this still occurs and that the different colours still remain—the aim of the different colours being that a boxer with a certain degree of skill should not be pitted against a boxer of considerably inferior or considerably superior skill, for obvious reasons. In this card there are spaces for a date and the doctor's observation as the result of his examination of the boxer. A doctor may ask for this card and write on it the recommendation which can only be superseded by a doctor of the ABA.

Let me now turn to a totally different point. It was with the greatest of difficulty and only after being most pig-headed that I managed to obtain reasonable conditions of work for myself in the course of examining boxers before a tournament. I found myself having to examine as many as 50 young men in a room that was more often than not

filthy and covered in dust. Boxers were being weighed. Trainers were shouting to one another. Boxers were dashing around looking for lost equipment. In the midst of this, a doctor was expected to examine a boxer and make a reasonable assessment concerning the young man's fitness for the bout that he was about to enter in the tournament. It took me something like 18 months to obtain a quiet room for myself in which I was able to work and see a boxer and talk to him alone. As a result of this many visiting trainers would come up and thank me for the way in which I had conducted the medical examination of their boxers and said that this had not occurred before. I say this, not in the spirit of arrogance, but purely to draw attention to the fact that doctors in these circumstances are expected to perform in surroundings and situations which they would not accept under any other circumstances.

My last point is to draw attention to the indescribably dirty and dusty surroundings in which boxers are expected to change. Frequently there are no shower facilities. There are often inadequate facilities just for washing. I suggest that because of the dirty conditions in which so many boxing bouts do take place, every boxer should have on his card a record of his immunization against tetanus. I am sure that Dr Blonstein and any other officer of the ABA would point out to me that no boxer to their knowledge has yet contracted tetanus. This, of course, is not a rebuttal. As a man who has always intensely admired athletes and has had a particularly warm spot in his heart for young boxers, it has always struck me as being particularly degrading to these young men to give them conditions such as I have described in which to pursue their sport.

A final question. Do boxing clubs still give cartons of cigarettes as prizes? To stop this outrageously stupid practice was one struggle I waged unsuccessfully!

Saskatoon.

JOHN Z. GARSON.

Medical record envelopes

Sir,

The problems arising from the inadequacy of the present E.C.6. and the E.C.6b envelopes have been aired on many occasions and there have been many suggestions as to how the general practitioner's records can be improved

upon. Unfortunately, the alternative schemes usually require a good deal of investment and it will take time before they could be adopted. We would like to present a simple and cheap alternative.

For some time now we have been using the treasury tag system for filing hospital letters, pathology reports, x-ray reports etc., and found this eminently satisfactory. However, the resulting paper usually fits inadequately into the present envelopes and the edges soon become worn, torn and dirty. We have experimented with various types of plastic covering in order to overcome this problem but for reasons of size, cost and wearing qualities these were rejected.

At this point the Scottish equivalent (E.C.6b Scotland) of the E.C.6 was brought to our notice. This is made of much thinner material than its English counterpart and is therefore less durable but the dimensions 8ins. x 5ins. were found to be much more suitable and the gussets enable the thicker wads to be accommodated more easily. Provided that replacement envelopes are easily available there seems to be no reason why they should not be more widely used. It may be technically feasible to coat an envelope of similar dimensions with a plastic finish in order to improve the wearing qualities of the records

Crawley.

ERIC GAMBRILL.

The Museum

Sir,

At the last Library Committee of the Council it was decided to let any Faculty borrow museum material for display at a particular function or for a short period covering any important College event. Application should be made directly to the college librarian who would arrange for an assortment of interesting items to be sent to the faculty requesting the temporary loan. In the interests of security, applications for loans should be made by a single member of the College through his or her faculty board. The individual so nominated to take charge would

be responsible for the accessions during the loan period. In this way the risk of loss or damage would be minimal or nil.

The provision of material from our ever-increasing collection at Princes Gate could be regarded as a legitimate and important extension of our museum work. The loan of exhibits to the periphery, in particular, could be of rising significance and a cultural venture which many other museums are already carrying out with conspicuous success. As an example, we may cite the Schools' Museum Service. Naturally, highly valuable objects would not normally be lent, because security arrangements may not always be of the required standard, but it is realized that duplicate material of lesser value can be of considerable interest and profit to members not able to visit College headquarters.

It has been said that the most important criterion to keep in mind when choosing material for loan is interest; and certainly the salient points to be considered in presentation are simplicity and vividness. These three make up the quality of a loan, irrespective of the rarity or individual value of the object itself. Some of the College accessions are neither rare nor of great financial value but their educational potential is great. The College museum is gladly prepared to offer this service to its members, if they so wish it. It was from loans of this nature sanctioned by the Library Committee coupled with generous gifts by members of the Welsh Faculties and outside parties that we were able, with the fullest co-operation of Dr Marshall Annear and the staff of Morgannwy Hospital, Bridgend, to set up the first permanent Medical Museum in the Principality. We hope that other Faculties will consider similar museum projects. The College is always ready to help.

PETER H. THOMAS,
(Honorary Curator, College Museum).

REFERENCES

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