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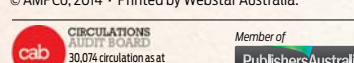
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Individual: RRP A\$410.00 (new), A\$350.00 (renewal).

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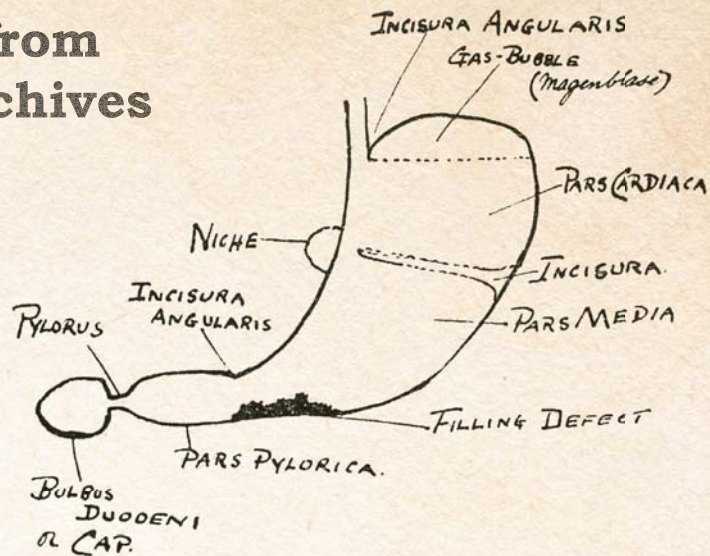
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Highlights from our 1918 archives

A hand-drawn illustration for a paper by Herschel Harris, an "honorary radiographer" at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, entitled "The value of the Roentgen rays in diseases of the alimentary tract", published in our 6 July 1918 issue.



The end of the war

The capitulation of Bulgaria, Turkey, Austria-Hungary and of Germany to the Allied Powers after four and a quarter years of the most destructive war the world has ever seen, marks an epoch for every class of the population and for every interest of mankind.

This medical profession has perhaps more reason for rejoicing than any other section of the community.

Added to the exultation of victory over the highly trained armies of Prussia, there is an intense satisfaction that those whose function in life is to heal, no longer need participate in the barbarities of war.

The pride of belonging to an Empire that always wins its way through to victory, notwithstanding her habitual unpreparedness at the start, is tempered by the knowledge that British medicine has triumphed on account of its humane character, its high ideals and its scientific practicability.

For a moment we can pause in our labours to join in the general thanksgiving; to give evidence of our gratitude to the sailors and soldiers of the British Empire and of her Allies for having crushed militarism, cruelty, oppression and tyranny.

Yesterday the medical profession had its stern task of attending to the men in the trenches, and of sharing the dangers and perils of the war with the combatant troops.

Tomorrow the profession must continue to the arduous task of minimising the disabling effects of war wounds and war sickness, and of raising the efficiency of the returned soldier.

Today we dare to forget everything else than the fact of victory, and the fact that no further sacrifices are needed to safeguard the whole world.

Editorial, 16 November 1918



Swallowing a nail

Sir: Dr Kilvington has given a very interesting and informing account of surgical treatment for removal of a tooth plate impacted in the gullet.

I venture to record a case of less surgical interest, but still of great importance, both to the patient and to the doctor.

A child aged 2 years swallowed a 2-inch iron nail and greatly alarmed its parents. The advice given was to avoid aperients, to give solid food and to watch developments.

After 2 days, the nail was evacuated, and the child is none the worse.

J De B Griffith,
Somerville, VIC
9 September 1918