

of the kind during five years' exposure, by lining his helmet and coat with yellow.

CHEMICAL RAYS IN THE TREATMENT OF HEART DISEASE.

From Copenhagen comes news that the premature death of Professor Finsen prevented him from fully investigating the action of chemical rays in the treatment of heart disease and certain nervous affections with which he experimented upon himself. It is stated that Dr. Hasselbalck's subsequent experiments in the Finsen laboratory fully bear out Professor Finsen's hypothesis that the rays, amongst other things, are also capable of dilating the small arteries along the surface of the body, whereby the work of the heart is materially facilitated. The erection of a special branch hospital in Copenhagen for the Finsen ray treatment of heart disease and nervous affections has now been decided upon. Finsen's discovery, concerning the application of X-rays to the heart, by which the veins were dilated and the heart's action restored, was regarded by the Danish medical men as the crowning work of his life, and it excited considerable interest in English scientific circles.

THE CURE OF TUBERCULOSIS.

It is reported from Milan that for some months past experiments have been carried on at the chief hospital in regard to the cure of tuberculosis of the bones and intestines by means of the Cugiullere serum, and very favourable results are said to have been obtained from its use. Considerable improvement was noted in all the cases on which the serum was tried, and several complete recoveries are stated to have occurred.

HILL DIARRHOEA.

Major F. P. Maynard, F.R.C.S., of the Indian Medical Service, attributes, in the *British Medical Journal*, the cause of "hill diarrhoea" to the following facts:—"Men arrive from the hot plains with digestions impaired by the intense heat and poor food obtainable. They at once eat heartily and take severe exercise, often showing indiscretion in not wearing warm enough clothing, or in not changing at once when hot and perspiring. In this way their digestions are overtaxed and their livers become congested; diarrhoea naturally follows. If properly dieted and clothed, &c., the diarrhoea stops, but if recurring chills are not avoided, or if the patient's health has been seriously undermined in the plains, it continues and sprue may develop.

The New Diet.

By DR. JOSIAH OLDFIELD.

Senior Medical Officer, Lady Margaret Hospital, Bromley.

So many women in Society are now adopting the æsthetic dietary, and so many patients are being put upon the uric acid free system of nutrition, that enquiries are beginning to be made for nurses who are skilled in the new methods of feeding the sick.

In a large number of hospitals the doctors take little care about the food. The diet is drawn up by the committee or by the Matron, or is carried on from day to day or from week to week just as in an ordinary household, and either the Matron or, not infrequently, the cook, decides what the day's dinner or supper shall be.

Even when a patient is put on "special" it is very often a diet of exclusion rather than of inclusion.

"Don't let No. 9 have any solids" or "Don't give No. 2 any sugar" is much more usual than "Give No. 7 such-and-such for breakfast, such-and-such for dinner, such-and-such for tea, and such-and-such for supper, and nothing else"!

And yet dietary is the most important of all things in relation to the stamina of the human race.

The field of dietary would have been a magnificent one for the nursing profession to have pioneered and won renown in, for in a very large number of cases the surgeon or physician turns to the Sister and says:—"Now, Sister, I leave this man in your charge to feed, give him what you think best; you know more about kitchen physic than I do."

But, because men have left this field to women, women have found no interest in it, and the nursing staff of most hospitals are much more attracted by daring surgery, and medical skill than by the fascinating observation of the effect of diet in sickness and in health.

I have been much struck in my travels through different countries by the fact that while a fairly general consensus of opinion has been arrived at as to the medical and surgical treatment of diseases there has no similar unanimity been arrived at in the very important realm of dietary.

I feel, therefore, that for nurses who care to think, there is an immense field for careful observation and for discovery in the matter of diet.

The Lady Margaret Hospital, therefore, does

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