

radiography and a hundred other applications to medicine in constant use.

3.—Louis Pasteur.

LOUIS PASTEUR, THE GREAT FRENCH SCIENTIST, will always be remembered as he has given the world "pasteurize" to our language. This limited meaning, however, may obscure much of his other and equally useful work in the fields of healing.

The son of a humble tanner, he was born in 1822, and although never of robust health in his youth, he displayed considerable brilliance at an early age. The first step of his dazzling career was to become assistant mathematics master at a small college. From there he never looked back and became professor, first of physics, then of chemistry at Dijon. He worked at various aspects of science before devoting all his time to chemistry, with especial reference to biological problems.

One of his favourite studies was that of fermentation. He noticed the souring of beers and wines and set out to find the cause, proving it to be from certain organisms floating in the air. He made a famous series of experiments to prove this, including one in which air had to be filtered. He then turned to the souring of milk, found that this was also caused by certain bacilli from the outer air and devised the method of heat treatment which killed these and other harmful organisms which we use today on our milk supplies.

By 1864, Pasteur was the leading chemist of his day, recognition of his work coming to him from all over the world. Among his other studies were of the diseases of the silkworm, an important study as they were then threatening to cripple the French silk industry. Then he applied himself to the curing of the ills that attack cattle and poultry and managed to isolate the anthrax bacilli. He succeeded in inoculating animals against this dreaded disease with anthrax viruses.

Then his adaptable mind made one of its most interesting yet lesser-known discoveries, that of the best curative treatment—indeed then the only one of rabies and hydrophobia. He made the important discovery that the seat of these allied troubles is in the nerve centre and not the blood stream as was commonly supposed. After a long series of experiments he found a suitably weakened form of the rabies bacillus for use as an inoculation and in 1885 he courageously used this on a child badly bitten by an infected dog. His risk was justified, the experiment was a great success, another of his theories proved of inestimable value and more fame brought to his name. By 1888 the Institut Pasteur in Paris was founded and since then many thousands suffering from hydrophobia have been treated there and the mortality rate reduced to less than 1 per cent.

In spite of all his great success, Pasteur remained unspoiled to the end. He continued to live quite poorly and simply, finding as he had found all his life, his constant inspiration in work. "Three things" he wrote, "will, work and success, between them fill human existence!"

This ardent love of work and its accompanying search for knowledge produced in Louis Pasteur a great human benefactor of deep wisdom and profound sincerity who ranks with the great benefactors of all ages, even above the modern scientific age. But to him was vouchsafed the true purpose of science in life. Speaking at the opening of the Institute, Pasteur in 1888, he said: "We may be sure that science, in obeying the law of humanity, will always labour to enlarge the frontiers of life."

Infantile Paralysis Fellowship.

THE INFANTILE PARALYSIS FELLOWSHIP held its first national Welfare Conference in London recently, which was attended by over fifty people, including delegates from nearly all of the Fellowship's 40 Branches in the British Isles.

The delegates, who are all working voluntarily in their

spare time for the Fellowship, included several representatives of the medical auxiliary and nursing professions, among whom were the Assistant Matron of the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff (Miss Galbraith), a Health Visitor from Edinburgh (Miss Goodlad), and a senior physiotherapist from Nottingham (Miss Trussell).

Several delegates were victims of poliomyelitis, who manage to do extensive welfare work despite severe disablement.

The Conference was addressed by Mr. Greaves, a local officer of the National Assistance Board, by permission of his Regional Controller, and by Mr. Dalby, a Group Disablement Resettlement Officer, by permission of the London Region of the Ministry of Labour, Disabled Persons' Section.

The main objects of the Conference were firstly, to make the I.P.F. welfare workers more conversant with the statutory benefits which are available to the disabled under Government legislation and, secondly, to discuss ways and means of improving the liaison and advisory work which is one of the principal functions of the Fellowship's Welfare organisation. Delegates were also made more fully aware of the help which can be offered by other voluntary bodies, both national and local.

Four set problems, of the type which the Fellowship is often asked to solve, were set for discussion by the delegates. Questions arising from these discussions were answered by Mr. Dalby and Mr. Greaves.

A "Brains Trust" was also held, questions put by delegates being answered by welfare experts, including Miss Esme Booth, Almoner of the National Association for the Paralysed.

The Infantile Paralysis Fellowship consider that the Conference served a useful purpose by enlarging the scope of their welfare members' activities and by giving them a high set of objectives to work for.

War-Blinded Chartered Physiotherapists Meet in Conference.

WAR-BLINED CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS from all parts of the country met in conference at the St. Dunstan's Training Centre and Holiday Home at Ovingdean, near Brighton, one week-end recently.

The principal guests this year were Brigadier J. G. Smyth, V.C., M.C., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, and Professor T. Pomfret Kilner, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Nuffield Professor of Plastic Surgery, Oxford University, who attended the Luncheon presided over by Sir Ian Fraser, C.B.E., M.P., the Chairman of St. Dunstan's, and at the meeting which followed Brigadier Smyth gave the address. Others present included Miss Dorothy Pain, O.B.E., the former Matron of St. Dunstan's, Miss Hester Angove, ex-Principal of the Physiotherapy School, Miss M. J. Neilson, Secretary of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Mr. John O. Jenkins, Principal of the Physiotherapy School, Mr. W. G. Askew, C.B.E., Secretary of St. Dunstan's and the Rev Andrew C. Nugee, a St. Dunstaner.

Apart from the actual business part of the conference there were other items to interest the St. Dunstan's physiotherapists, including the inspection and demonstrations of Electronic apparatus shown by Electro-Medical Supplies, Ltd., Medical Supply Association and Multi-Tone, Ltd., while a lecture on Plastic Surgery and the part that physiotherapy can play in this branch of healing was given by Professor Kilner. Another lecture, on Muscle Re-Education, was given by Mr. R. J. S. Reynolds, S.R.N., M.C.S.P., who was the Principal Guest at the Sunday Luncheon. Sunday afternoon and evening were free periods for the formation of discussion groups, and this in the past has proved one of the outstanding features of the conference, for it gives the men an opportunity to exchange news and views on their work in hospitals and in private practices.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)