

gramme it is advisable to inform the parents of the children, general medical practitioners in the area, and the school staff that this step is being taken. "An appropriate explanation of the purpose and procedure of vaccination is often welcomed by those concerned," says Mr. Macleod. "In consultation with the teaching staff it should be possible by suitable talks and discussions to eliminate both fear and misunderstanding that may arise among pupils as to the meaning of the injections and local clinical reactions."

Discussing the value of B.C.G. vaccination a medical memorandum which Medical Officers of Health have received from the Ministry, mentions that the Medical Research Council have already undertaken extensive controlled trials among school leavers. The results, it is hoped, will assess the protective value of B.C.G. as a means of mass immunisation of persons in ordinary average conditions of life. The results of these trials will however not be known until the subsequent history of the children concerned has been followed for about three years.

This invitation by the Minister will be considered by the appropriate committees of the London County Council. Acceptance of it would involve the extension of the Council's present arrangements which are limited, under the terms of a previous decision of the Minister (circular letter dated August 12th, 1949), to persons in known contact with tuberculous infection and to whom it was judged medically expedient, subject to the necessary preliminary tests, that vaccination should be given.

Following the Minister's decision in 1949, the L.C.C. applied for authority and received the Minister's approval in December, 1949, to commence B.C.G. vaccination in the County of London. This preventive health facility is of particular value to children who are in contact with known cases of tuberculosis and they constitute the great majority of persons vaccinated under the existing arrangements. Vaccination is administered to children only after the parents' written consent has been obtained, and in all cases the vaccination is carried out by chest physicians who have special knowledge and experience of tuberculosis. The latest available figures show that over 6,000 children have been vaccinated since the scheme began.

The procedure includes a skin test to ascertain whether vaccination against tuberculosis is the proper course, and as it is desirable for children to be segregated from any known cases of tuberculosis for a period after B.C.G. vaccination, the Council arranges for children to be "boarded out" in homes and nurseries outside London when no other means of segregating these children is practicable. During 1952, there were 82 children boarded out in this way. The Council also has a scheme for "boarding-out" child tuberculosis contacts when, owing to a case of tuberculosis in the family, it is not possible for the children to be looked after in their own homes. In these circumstances the children are given B.C.G. vaccination when necessary, while they are away from home.

Last Word for 1953.

It is only demanded of the few that they should give up entirely a life of practical service of the sick, which, by common consent, is held to be the happiest and most satisfying that any woman can live, and devote themselves to the drier details of organisation.

Those who have the happiness of spending their days as practical nurses, and in touch with all the human interest this brings may well spare a small portion of their time to furthering the general welfare of their profession, membership of which entails duties as well as privileges.

ETHEL GORDON FENWICK.

Book Reviews.

Principles of Microbiology.*

By Walter W. Krueger.

HERE IS ANOTHER thrilling book from the publishing house of W. B. Saunders Company of Philadelphia and London. Every possible detail in the exciting Study of Bacteriology, Microbiology, and the causal organisms of all acute infections is to be found in its thirty-four absorbing chapters. The History of Microbiology is contained in one vivid and enlightening chapter, which is complete with short biographies and photographs of eminent and world-famous scientists who discovered the causes and cures of many of the dangerous infectious diseases.

If you wish to know anything at all about bacteria and their classification, or of fungi, yeasts and moulds, or of protozoa or of microscopic viruses or anything about any micro-organism—pathogenic or otherwise—then simply turn the glossy pages of "Principles of Microbiology," and take your choice. A wealth of information awaits the students of this particular study and it is surely the best text-book of its type in circulation.

The chapter dealing with anti-biotics is fascinating to the student; so also are the chapters on the microbiology and purification of water and milk, and the preservation of food generally. There is also an excellent chapter on immunity, which is usually a difficult subject to understand, but Mr. Krueger reveals it in so interesting and simple a manner that very young student nurses will easily be capable of understanding it.

As can be expected from an American publishing firm, the book is a luxury product—well bound with a descriptive cover bearing a diagram of a microscope surrounded by bacteria of all shapes and sizes. The paper used is of first quality and the print is beautifully legible. Many photographs, illustrations and diagrams embellish its pages and make the book a delight and a treasure to own. No medical student, no teacher of medicine and nursing students can afford to be without this intellectual and complete text on bacteriology, even though medical librarians will no doubt obtain their copies. Mr. Krueger is certainly to be congratulated on bringing so complicated and specialised a subject within the understanding of so vast a number of young students and of adding to the zest and delight of inquisitive and voracious readers.

* Published by W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd., 7, Grape Street, London, W.C.2. Price 27s. 6d.

Nursing History.*

By Minnie Goodnow, R.N.

NINTH EDITION. ILLUSTRATED.

MISS GOODNOW'S History of Nursing is a concise and interesting document, especially when she illustrates American nursing history for us. The two chronologies—one of general and the other of Nursing history are really excellent.

Any notes on nursing in the pre-Christian era are always rather vague and sketchy because the little knowledge we have of nursing in those days is mostly drawn from inference only. Miss Goodnow's notes follow the usual pattern and they are therefore not of absorbing interest. Where she writes from absolute knowledge, then the history becomes alive and interesting to a degree.

In Chapter 5, on the Development of Nursing in Great Britain, Miss Goodnow is again obviously on unfamiliar ground, for she incorrectly infers that the Student Nurses' Association was brought into being as one of Mrs. Bedford Fenwick's creations.

On the whole, however, the Outline of Nursing History is a fairly good presentation, and will be a most useful addition

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