

We wouldn't dare to use such treatment today—not even in desperate cases. Further research may provide better understanding of the effective principle of this Homeric cure. Maybe the degree of oxygen supplied to the bacteria that prevented the healing of the wound had been influenced by the rust in one way or another. It seems that the new germ-killing chemicals and drugs are working in this way.

So the sulfa drugs, according to Dr. G. J. Martin, act indirectly by surrounding the bacteria with a "chemical magic wall" which makes it impossible for the bacteria to obtain vital food. Thus weakened the bacteria are wiped out by the leucocytes of the body. Too little oxygen is harmful to bacteria, and so is too much oxygen. The acridines to which some of the new germ-killing chemicals belong put their germs in a chemical vacuum, in which they are deprived of oxygen. While the sulfa drugs produce starvation, Dr. Martin says, the acridines cause asphyxia of the bacteria.

Penicillin B, the chemical constitution of which has been found by a group of workers at St. Louis University to contain an important oxygen-carrying group, seems to act just in the opposite manner. Instead of depriving bacteria of oxygen it surrounds them with too much oxygen in the form of hydrogen peroxide. This results in literally "burning" the bacteria alive. These are rather unexpected results of recent investigations, and they may very well explain old and mystic cures which in practical experience have proven successful.

National Fund for POLIOMYELITIS RESEARCH.

THE NATIONAL FUND FOR POLIOMYELITIS RESEARCH held a Press Reception at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, on Tuesday, January 20th, 1953, at 11.30 a.m., in order to launch its aims and hopes into the minds of the general public.

The Fund was founded by the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship, and it was officially inaugurated on December 17th, 1952, at the Mansion House in the presence of the Lord Mayor.

The aims of the Fund are: "to promote and finance research into the causes, cure, prevention and treatment of Poliomyelitis: and research into the methods of rehabilitation of those disabled from Poliomyelitis." The Fund will only spend money at the advice of the Medical Profession.

The address of the Fund is: The National Fund for Poliomyelitis Research, 41, Spenser Street, London, S.W.1; Telephone: TATE Gallery 9604, and the very able Secretary is Mr. Duncan Guthrie. The Chairman of its most distinguished Council is Admiral Sir Charles Daniel, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., whilst many eminent Physicians and Surgeons are Council Members—thus the Fund is well recommended to the public. This is the first time a private organisation has ever been formed to raise money for Poliomyelitis research.

Amongst the distinguished speakers at the Press Conference were the Chairman, Admiral Sir Charles Daniel, Mr. Michael Denison—who, by the way, apologised for the absence of Miss Dulcie Grey through illness—and a General Medical Practitioner who preferred to remain anonymous.

Mr. Guthrie, the Secretary, outlined the coming efforts which were to be made in order to collect monies for the Fund. The promoters were hoping for at least three-quarters of a million pounds.

The Lord Mayors and Mayors throughout the country are being asked to collect subscriptions in their areas. There are to be banquets, balls and other festivities in connection with the Fund, and sale of commemorative china which can be had on application to the Secretary at headquarters. The china is being made at cost price by Mr. Potter—a potter in the Isle of Wight. We wish such a humanitarian Fund all the success it deserves, and sincerely hope its first three-quarters of a million comes quickly.

G. M. H.

Nursing Echoes.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to send a generous subscription for 1953 to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

PART-TIME NURSES AND THE STAFF of Standish House Sanatorium, Gloucestershire, made presentations to Miss M. Phillips to mark her departure from the sanatorium, of which she has been Matron since October, 1946.

Formerly at Stockton-on-Tees Miss Phillips, who is shortly taking over the post of Matron at Monsall Hospital, Manchester, was pioneer of Standish House part-time nursing scheme, which has proved an outstanding success in dealing with extra tuberculosis patients.

The presentation to Miss Phillips were made by Sister Helen Harvey, the longest serving member of the staff and by Mrs. M. B. Ashmead, a part-time nurse.

Miss Phillips is to be succeeded by Miss P. M. Thomas who is at present Matron at Walton Sanatorium, Chesterfield.

IN THE NOISE AND HUSTLE of this modern world of ours, we are glad to be able occasionally to glance back and, through our readers, to recapture the *real* meaning of Christmas.

The Matron and Staff of the British Home for Incurables at Streatham, in their usual generosity, made Christmas happiness for their patients.

They gave of their best unstintingly and brought the Christ Child near.

The wards were dressed in party garb, the physicians and surgeons gave their time to be present at the Christmas feast, and members of the Board and Committees entertained their chronically ill patients.

The true Christmas spirit was indeed in the hearts of these good folk.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR PROFESSION from the heart of the country serving old ladies whose memories are dimming, tells us how she rose early to walk through the darkness to take part in a service, on Christmas morning, at a hospital some distance away. We can, through her, realise how beautiful was the scene when a lighted Christmas tree shone through a window into the darkness.

The service was held, a visit was paid to a few patients, including a babe born during the night, and a walk back to duty, self forgotten in providing happiness for a few weary travellers nearing "the end of the road."

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