

## This May Revolutionise Injections.

A Scots Diabetic has Invented a Painless "Gun."

A SCOTSMAN, Charles Palmer, 46-year-old factor of the Great Glen Cattle Ranch, Fort William, has invented a painless injector "gun" that already makes the old type of manual injection out of date.

Diabetics, who rely on daily injections of insulin to keep them alive, can use this "gun" with one hand on almost any part of their body; the penetration depth of the needle can be adjusted; and it is completely painless.

I visited Mr. Palmer at his home on the Ranch, saw and experienced the gun in action.

"Bare your arm," he said. I did so. He pressed the "nozzle" against my flesh and I waited.

"You ready?" he asked. "Yes," I said, "Pull the trigger."

He grinned. "The trigger's pulled. You've had the needle in your arm for nearly half a minute." To prove it, he withdrew *one inch* of needle out of my arm. It left a very tiny red dot. No pain—no sensation—nothing. The secret lies in the lightning speed of the needle.

I asked Mr. Palmer how he came to think about the idea and he explained, "I became a diabetic six years ago. When I came out of hospital, I decided to stop worrying about the trouble and tackle it in a commonsense way. So I studied diabetics. I really got down to understanding what it is and conditioning myself to meet the situation so that I could live a normal, healthy life."

As he said this, looking at his healthy face and robust figure, I heartily agreed with his approach to the problem and felt that it had been very successful.

He went on—"I found that the one distasteful thing I could not get used to was the twice-daily injection of insulin. And when you have a trouble like this you meet many other people in the same boat. I found that most diabetics have the same aversion—with some it is a horror—of having to inject themselves every day. I came to dread my twice-daily dose. So I decided to *do* something about it. And the result of my 'fiddling around' is this gun."

The firm of McGregor and Alves, who co-operated in the original design, are manufacturing the gun at Hillington Industrial Estate; it is in stainless steel and costs £2 10s. Already demand is outpacing supply. Mrs. Palmer told me, "I am helping my husband by acting as 'Sales-and-Despatch' Manager. Some of the letters we get with orders are heart-rending—and Charles insists that these are given priority. One little Glasgow boy whose mother is a diabetic wrote saying he was saving to buy a gun as a present for her. So we sent one—as a present." She showed me a letter from a Glasgow diabetic doctor who wrote his own glowing praises of this "boon to sufferers under the needle." So it went on—letters pleading for guns, letters of thanks, letters of praise. The file was thick.

Production of the invention is just getting into stride. So far, over a thousand have been made and despatched to diabetics all over Britain. The gun has been given a preliminary blessing by the Department of Health who say that it will be included as a National Health Service prescription when a sufficient number of doctors demand it. Already the first N.H.S. prescription has been received by a chemist in Clydebank. War Office, too, have shown interest in the instrument—particularly with regard to the speeding-up of mass-injections.

Mr. Palmer's initial order with the makers is for 20,000 which, he says, "I'll take and despatch in three months if I can get them."

R. W.

We must congratulate Mr. Palmer upon his invention that must be of benefit to his fellow sufferers.

## Nursing Echoes.

FOLLOWING ITS RECENT change of title, full members of the Royal Society of Health may use the designation M.R.S.H.

An M.R.S.H. is regarded as evidence of a high level of attainment in the field of health.

## Medical Book Exhibition in Yugoslavia.

AN EXHIBITION of 160 books on medical subjects has been sent to Yugoslavia by the British Council for exhibition in Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana towards the end of the year.

Subjects include sections on general medicine; materia medica, pharmacy and therapeutics; neurology and psychiatry; public health and social medicine; surgery and other medical specialities. There are smaller sections on anatomy and physiology; bacteriology and parasitology; dietetics and food hygiene; obstetrics and gynaecology; ophthalmology, pathology and tuberculosis.

It is expected that the books will be incorporated in British Council libraries in Yugoslavia after exhibition.

## The British College of Nurses, Ltd.

A MEETING OF THE Council of the British College of Nurses, Ltd., was held at 19, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7, on Wednesday, August 24th, 1955, at 2.30 p.m.

Miss A. R. Bunch, S.R.N., Vice-President, was in the chair, and there were present: Miss M. Wakefield, Vice-President, Miss D. Barlow, Miss B. West, Fellows, Miss R. E. Finch, Miss M. I. Revill and Miss A. A. Ward, Members.

Prayers having been read, the Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Interesting correspondence was reported from Miss G. Goodchild, S.R.N., President of "The Nurses' Crusade," of which we publish on another page her communication with the Minister of Health, appealing against the recognition of untrained persons in the Nursing Profession in the nursing of the sick.

A letter was received from Mrs. M. C. Barber, S.R.N., D.N., President, expressing her wish to resign from the Presidency of the College.

### Election of Fellows and Members.

Applications for membership were received and all were elected.

### Financial Statement.

The financial statement was reported and adopted.

### Bring and Buy Sale.

The Council in reconsidering a Bring and Buy Sale, agreed that one be held on *Saturday, October 1st*, and would welcome help from Fellows and Members of articles or cheques, and if some Fellows and Members and friends would wish to come and *buy* only, all would help.

It is hoped to be an occasion of variety, including hand reading!

## A Challenge to the Nursing Profession.

HAVING REFERRED IN OUR July issue to the courageous crusade of Miss Gladys Goodchild, Matron of the Christie Hospital, and Holt Radium Institute at Manchester, in her protest against a Ministry of Health circular instructing hospitals to recognise the grade of nursing auxiliary as a person "who is engaged wholly or mainly on nursing duties" even though the person has no recognised nursing or midwifery qualification, and is not a student nurse, a pupil midwife, or a pupil assistant nurse, we report opposite:—

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