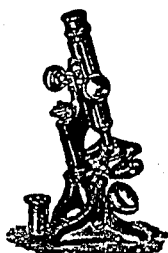


Medical Matters.**CONDENSED MILK.**

WE have, on various occasions, drawn attention in these columns to the extreme danger of feeding children upon some of the preparations of condensed milk which are at present in the market. We are, therefore, glad to observe that our contemporary, the *British Medical Journal*, has recently conducted a valuable investigation into the composition of some of the brands of tinned milk most largely used in this country. These conclusively show, as we have previously in these columns shown, that many of these are deficient in the butter-fat which is so essential for the nourishment of the child. Incidentally, however, the especial advantages of the Milkmaid Brand, produced by the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company, of 10, Mark Lane, London, E.C., have been made manifest, and it has been shown that, whereas six samples of other brands of condensed milk only contained, on the average, 2.07 per cent. of buttermilk, the Milkmaid Brand shows a percentage of no less than 11.19 of this invaluable constituent. We are glad to be able to specially commend the Milkmaid Brand of condensed milk; and would call the attention of our readers to the fact that the company in question has recently issued a little pamphlet upon "How to Feed Baby on Condensed Milk," the rules of which are very valuable and practical, and a copy of which we do not doubt could be obtained by any Nurse on application to the Company, at the address which we have given above.

MODERN MIRACLES.

OUR French contemporaries are greatly exercised at present over the remarkable cures which are stated to have been effected by visits to Lourdes; and coincidentally there has, in the North of England been considerable interest taken in patients who have recovered from serious diseases after visits to Holywell. One such patient had a condition diagnosed, by excellent authorities, as elephantiasis of the leg. After bathing in the Holywell water, it is asserted that the swelling rapidly went down, and quite disappeared in a few days. A similar case, which had been described with a photograph in a medical journal, is said to have derived similar benefit, and a medical society, before whom this patient was shown, were unanimous as to the cure which had been effected. Three persons, who for years had been martyrs to rheumatism, despite all treatment, it is alleged have been

apparently cured by a visit to the well. The cases at Lourdes are equally difficult to explain, for the theory of hysteria and of faith-healing are only partially satisfactory. At any rate, so far as our present knowledge goes, it is most difficult to understand the cure of an undoubted case of elephantiasis by bathing in water, or through the influence of mental impressions. At any rate, the first point which occurs to us is, that it would be scientifically useful if a complete analysis of the water of Holywell were made, and published.

LEPROSY IN HAWAII.

THE rapidity with which leprosy can spread under conditions favourable to its development is well exemplified in the Hawaiian Islands. It is believed that, about 1844, leprosy was introduced into these regions by some Chinese settlers, and the first case which occurred in a native was in 1852. After that date the disease spread with alarming rapidity, so that in 1865 the Island of Molokai was set apart for isolating cases of the malady. Since then nearly five thousand lepers have been sent to the Island. Of these about 1,150 are still alive, about 3,500 are dead, and about 250 have managed to escape. It is estimated that amongst the populations of the other islands there are a considerable number of lepers, however, who manage to evade discovery, and prefer a life probably of privation in the mountains to imprisonment and comparative luxury in Molokai. The disease is not confined exclusively to natives, and amongst the 1,150 living lepers there are five English, four Germans, five Portuguese, four Americans and one Russian. The medical men in Hawaii believe that the affection is distinctly contagious, and that rigorous isolation is the only method of effectually dealing with and eradicating the disease.

AIR AND LIGHT.

THE value of fresh air and sunlight in the prevention of disease as well as in its cure is well known. And considerable forebodings are being expressed therefore that the increase of ground rents in our large towns, which is leading to the continual elevation of houses, is inevitably detracting from the health of the population, seeing that the amount of daylight and of fresh air which can reach the rooms on the ground floor in such houses must be greatly limited. The Italian proverb, that the doctor enters the house into which the sun does not go, and the curious Indian saying that "He who plants a tree in front of his own dwelling begins to dig his grave" are both expressive of a popular belief in the vitalising influence of sunlight, which is now known to be based upon scientific truth.

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