

### Items of Interest.

For some months the Royal College of Surgeons has been considering the subject of cancer research, and it has just decided, in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians, to carry out an elaborate scheme of inquiry. The King, having heard of the movement, caused a message to be conveyed to the two colleges through Sir William Broadbent, intimating that his Majesty was glad such an inquiry was to be made as he took a great interest in the prevention and treatment of cancer, and stating that his Majesty hoped important results would follow.

A joint committee of the two Royal Colleges has been appointed to draw up the lines along which the investigation shall proceed. Not more than two or three meetings will be necessary to complete the scheme, and then it is hoped the actual research work will be put in hand at once. The aim is to start a clearly-defined system of scientific investigation with the object of seeking a cure for this fell disease. There will be no public appeal for funds to assist in the investigation, as it is believed that when once it is known that the two colleges are willing to undertake the work a considerable sum of money will be placed at the committee's disposal.

A special meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society was recently held in the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, to discuss the treatment and teaching of incipient and transient mental disorder in the Royal Edinburgh Infirmary. Sir John Sibbald urged that the establishment of wards in the infirmary for the treatment of incipient and transitory mental disorders was desirable. Patients in the early stages of mental disorder were almost entirely neglected, and a considerable number were allowed to fall into incurable insanity who might well have been saved from that fate by hospital treatment. Sir John Batty Tuke expressed similar views, and a motion urging upon the managers of the infirmary the propriety of founding wards for the treatment of incipient, transient, and recent cases of insanity was unanimously agreed to.

A report, which has been presented to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, states that in the six months ending February 13th the total number of small-pox cases was 3,561, the highest number of cases in a single day being ninety-three.

Referring to the strain caused by the epidemic on the resources of the Board, the report says that until the new hospitals are ready, a new bed has to be found for every fresh admission at the hospital ships.

In the House of Commons Mr. Walter Long, in reply to Mr. Corrie Grant, said the Government did not propose to bring in a measure enforcing the isolation of persons who had been in contact with small-pox patients.

The various charts prepared by Widderspoon and Co. are well known and appreciated by nurses with whom this long established firm has a well deserved reputation. Since 1861 Messrs. Widderspoon have carried on their business in an interesting building in Lincoln's Inn Fields, formerly known as Serle's Coffee

Tavern, which was probably opened in the time of Charles II, and later as Green's Hotel. The frontage of the house remains still as it was built at the end of the 17th century, and the handsome classic doorway has undergone no changes since it left the woodcarver's hands. Unfortunately for those who value the historical old buildings still left to us this house and site have now been acquired by the Government for new public offices. Messrs. Widderspoon and Co. will, however, still be found in Lincoln's Inn Fields, their new premises being in Gate Street at the north-west corner of the square. The establishment has been fitted throughout with modern machinery driven by electric motors, and here the many departments so admirably carried on for a term of over forty years at "Serle's Coffee House" will be continued with all the efficiency attainable with the most up-to-date appliances.

### Inventions, Preparations, etc.

#### HOVIS FOOD.

The reputation of Hovis Bread is now well established, and it has found its way into most households. Those who know and appreciate its excellence will be glad to learn that the Hovis Bread Flour Co. Ltd., has now prepared a food for infants and invalids which forms a valuable substitute when the infant's natural food supply fails.

The food is supplied in two qualities, to meet the needs of the child at varying ages. No. 1 food is intended for the use of infants up to 8 months old. In this food both starch and cane sugar are absent, while it is rich in converted carbo-hydrates, and contains an adequate proportion of pure cereal phosphates. The food is prepared with diluted cow's milk and full directions for its preparation are given on each bottle.

No. 2 food is designed for the use of infants over 8 months of age, from which time onwards it becomes desirable to exercise the amyolytic function of the digestive organs, therefore while resembling the first food in its main features, it also includes an appreciable proportion of farinaceous constituents. A point to be noted with regard to this food is its economy in use. Not that this point is of importance provided the food is of inferior quality, but when a preparation is of known excellence, the reasonableness of its cost may appropriately be taken into consideration.

Lastly, the second food may with benefit be given to invalid and convalescent adults, as it is easily assimilated, and forms a pleasant variety in their limited diet.

It may be obtained from the principal bakers and grocers in the British Isles, or if there is any difficulty, the Hovis-Bread Flour Company, Ltd., Macclesfield, will on application furnish the addresses of local agents by return of post.

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