

reception of the healthy, and the senses of a large number of patients are preternaturally quickened. Quiet is, in our view, a most valuable therapeutic agent, and from the first day of their entrance into a hospital probationers and other officials should be drilled in its importance. It is recognised in a private house as essential to the well-being of a sick person but in hospital no one seems to attach any particular importance to it. As a natural consequence patients who speak most gratefully of the care they receive complain bitterly of the incessant noise. Cannot committees of hospitals do something to secure quiet throughout the institution.

### Medical Matters.

#### THERAPEUTICS OF RADIUM.



Dr. Lehmann in a paper quoted by the *British Medical Journal* from a foreign contemporary, on the uses of radium in treatment, first describes the methods by which it may be employed and the effect of its emanations on the healthy tissues and on bacteria, toxins, etc. The emanations of radium, like the X-rays, may produce on the normal skin an erythema or even ulceration, which latter heals with difficulty. Dr. Schultz concludes that radium has a greater action on the vessels and exercises a deeper effect than the X-rays and, further, that it is more effective in the treatment of malignant tumours of the skin. The growth of bacterial cultures has been arrested by exposure to radium emanations, and anthrax bacilli have been killed by an exposure of seventy-one hours to these. Wounds caused by radium cannot be infected, but an infected wound cannot be disinfected, by exposure to radium. After considering somewhat in detail the action of radium on the various organs and tissues, the author proceeds to the uses of this method of treatment in diseased conditions. In lupus good results have been obtained, the resulting cicatrix being white, pearly, and smooth. In psoriasis the applications should be of short duration, and cases have been cured after one *séance*. About the eighth day after the application the diseased patch becomes of a vermilion colour, and towards the third week the lesion begins to disappear. This treatment is only suitable for multiple small patches. In acne and molluscum

contagiosum good results have been obtained. The pains of tabetics and gastric crises have been ameliorated, and sensation has returned to previously anaesthetic areas of skin in cases of leprosy. Dr. Darier has cured a case of facial paralysis in a few days by the application of radium. In the treatment of malignant tumours by radium the author finds that for two weeks after the commencement of treatment the tumour remains stationary; it then progressively diminishes in size without necrosis taking place. The author refers to several cases of epithelial cancer which were cured by this method, and mentions cases of cancer of the larynx, œsophagus, and stomach which were benefited. In trachoma the granulations have rapidly disappeared after being touched every day for from ten to fifteen days with a salt of radium. The author finally urges that this method of therapeutics should be extensively employed, especially as its employment is devoid of many of the difficulties which have to be considered when the X-rays are used.

#### PULMONIN.

A new agent in the treatment of tuberculosis—pulmonin—is believed by its discoverer, Dr. Ungár, a Hungarian, to be very effective in dealing with the disease, if used in time. It is described in a contemporary as follows:—"The treatment is very simple and entirely painless. The "pulmonin," an absolutely colourless, odourless, and tasteless liquid, of the same density as water, is injected by means of a syringe (each patient has his own to prevent possible infection) into the arm (right and left alternately) between the shoulder and elbow. The first dose is  $\frac{1}{2}$  gram, increasing every day by 1 centigram till it reaches 8-10 or 9-10 gram—in some cases a gram. The whole treatment consists of fifty-sixty injections, to be repeated, for safety's sake, three or four months later. No particular diet is required beyond an abstinence from alcoholic beverages. After the first five or six injections the fever abates, after ten to fifteen the fever ceases altogether, and the excessive sweating (especially at night) so characteristic of those suffering from the complaint is reduced to nil."

#### Causes of Cancer.

The statements made as to the sale of meat infected by cancer should rouse the public to secure legislation, putting an end to such an abomination. One correspondent of a contemporary says it is no wonder that cancer should increase. Considering what we eat, the wonder would be if it did not.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)