

## Medical Matters.

### "CARRIERS" OF ENTERIC FEVER.

Dr. Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, in his report for the past year, states that, with the view of protecting the public from the danger arising from the discharge from hospital of patients who, although in other respects perfectly healthy, may be carriers of infection, by reason of their still passing the bacillus typhosus in their stools and urine, the following arrangements have been made by the Local Government Board in connection with cases of this kind discharged from a hospital of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

#### PROCEDURE.

Samples of stools or urine, or both, to be sent to the Lister Institute, as follows:—

1. In all cases a sample of stools, and a sample of urine, to be sent monthly during the first six months after discharge, the first samples being sent one month after discharge from hospital.

2. If the results, on examination of the samples, all prove negative during those six months, cease sending monthly samples, but send a sample of both stools and urine at the end of the next period of six months. If these also prove negative, no more samples to be sent.

3. If, in any case, the results are positive, continue sending monthly samples of stools and urine until further notice.

The necessary apparatus for taking and sending by post samples of fæces and urine have been supplied by the Lister Institute, with instructions as regards their use.

### CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

The recent report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for England states that in view of outbreaks of cerebro-spinal fever at Glasgow and elsewhere Dr. Gordon and Dr. Horder were instructed to inquire if it was possible to determine the relative efficacy of various anti-meningococcus sera on the market that claimed to be of curative value in this disease. On examination of the literature they found that while several sera advocated as possessing anti-meningococcus value were on the market, experimental tests of their activity were wanting. The chief cause of this appeared to be the comparatively feeble and uncertain virulence of the meningococcus when tested in the usual way. Doctors Gordon and Horder conducted various experiments, and the report says they are continuing the inquiry for the purpose of investigating some more powerful anti-meningococcus sera recently introduced.

### THE EARLY TREATMENT OF DIPHTHERIA.

Commenting, in the first annual report on the diphtheria cases admitted to the Greenock and District Combination Hospital, Dr. Love, the Physician Superintendent, states that the value of early removal to hospital of patients suffering from diphtheria cannot be over-estimated, as with modern means of treatment the mortality among diphtheria patients should be very much less than it is. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon parents that there is urgent necessity for medical supervision in all cases of sore throat. Dr. Love points out that many of the patients who die are sent to hospital immediately a medical attendant is called, but unfortunately that often happens only when the child has been ill five to seven days, and when the treatment has no longer the same efficacy in counteracting the disease.

### FLIES AS CARRIERS OF INFECTION.

A blue-book just published by the Local Government Board contains information resulting from investigations into the possible carriage of infection by flies, carried out under the supervision of Dr. Monckton Copeman, F.R.S., a medical inspector of the Board, in co-operation with Professor Nuttall, F.R.S., Quick Professor of Biology in the University of Cambridge. The report includes a tabulated statement of the distinctive features in their various stages of the more important flies found in houses, compiled by Mr. Ernest M. Austen, of the British Museum Natural History Department. It is illustrated by a series of plates, the figures in which have been specially drawn from nature by Mr. Terzi. The subject is dealt with in a comprehensive form, and comprises how to distinguish the more important species. The conclusions arrived at show that flies do not disappear altogether during the winter, as popularly thought, but may be found in places where the temperature, conditions, etc., are favourable. If, as seems probable, flies are only to be found in winter in isolated colonies in certain places, the possibility of appreciable reduction in their numbers, or even of their possible extermination, becomes more hopeful. In such places they could easily be destroyed, as even the slightest exposure during the cold months is fatal to them.

### ALIENS AND DISEASE.

The spread of favus in this country, where, until a few years ago it was unknown, and to which it has been introduced by immigrants, is a matter of serious importance in London and other large cities. It is a disease of the scalp, which, bred in dirt, is highly contagious, and is said to result often in total loss of sight.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)