

"In the communities where it is endemic leprosy is notoriously a disease of the dirtier classes. It is not, however, necessarily associated with poverty, except in so far as this is a concomitant of squalor. In South Africa, although leprosy is more prevalent among the lower strata of the population, it is by no means confined to them. Of the cases in Europeans, a considerable percentage is derived from families in which poverty and privation are unknown, but where the practice of the elements of domestic hygiene and cleanliness is in abeyance. Cases do occasionally occur in persons whose habits are, in general, cleanly, but on inquiry one sometimes finds that lapses from such habits have occurred, affording opportunity for the transmission of the infection by the means suggested. There is in this asylum, for example, a patient who once held a position of responsibility in a crack English regiment. He had always been of scrupulously cleanly habits when circumstances permitted. He states, however, that under the exigencies of campaigning in India, and later in South Africa, he frequently slept between, and retained for temporary use when no others were available, blankets belonging to and previously used by natives."

Mr. E. C. Long, M.R.C.S., Principal Medical Officer in Basutoland, who has been investigating along the same lines as Dr. Sandes, has arrived at the same conclusions, and states that the following history of a recent case of leprosy is only explicable by assuming some such method of infection.

"A native, X, residing in a village about three miles from Maseru, presented himself as an out-patient about three months ago with some well-marked tubercular leprosy patches on the face. They had appeared about six weeks previously. There are no lepers in his village, and none of his relatives are lepers. Inquiries into how he had spent his time, and where he had been during the preceding year, elicited the fact that he had during that period visited on three or four occasions a village about fifty miles away, where there was one leper, who was, however, driven from the village during the period in question. X had been in the leper's hut, but had never partaken of food there. After the leper had been driven away, X spent one night in the hut, and was severely bitten by bugs there."

Mr. Long further adds: "One is almost forced to the conclusion that X was inoculated by leprosy-infected bugs or other parasites on the night he spent in the infected hut."

TREATMENT BY ISOTONIC PLASMA.

The new treatment by isotonic plasma, to which we briefly referred last week as being carried out at the Quinton Polyclinic in Poland Street, W., requires a more detailed explanation than we were able to give in our last issue.

This treatment is fully described in a pamphlet written by a physician, and published by J. Whitaker & Sons, 12, Warwick Lane, E.C. We read:—

"Early in the new century it began to be noised abroad that a new remedial measure existed in nature, rivalling *Radium* itself in its wonder-working powers. Not from the earth, but from the sea, had this fresh therapeutic force been obtained; it was evolved from seawater as a basis. The sea plays a great part in the biology and chemistry of the globe: not only does the sea contain more than thirty of the chemical elements known to man, it constitutes also a nutritive *milieu* for innumerable forms of animal life, which derive from their surroundings vigour and vitality."

Problems of vital importance concerning the conditions of early life on the globe have for years been under the skilled investigation of M. René Quinton, Professor of Comparative Physiology in the College de France.

Quinton, whose scientific work places him in the front rank of modern *savants*, has calculated the composition of the primordial oceans at the earliest period of biological times.

"The fact was established that the earliest, simplest organisms were those of the sea, and not of the land; and science now accepts this discovery. What, then, were the marine conditions favouring the life and the well-being of these simple protoplasmic units?"

"After establishing the fact that the first occurrence of animal life was in the sea and not on land, Quinton next showed that the primordial oceans contained 8 per cent. of dissolved inorganic matter; that is, the fluid medium, in which the earliest organisms lived and moved and had their being, which provided nutriment and environment for them, was of this degree of concentration. Now this, while of academic interest, is, further, of very definite practical bearing on life on the globe at the present day.

"Elementary physiology teaches that the cells of which all bodies are composed are bathed in a fluid medium which is derived from the blood-vessels. This fluid medium, which nourishes all the cells of the body, has also a saline concentration of 8 per cent.; that is, the concentration of the fluid in which primordial

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