

## MEDICAL NOTES.

**Investigation of Pellagra.**

The question of the cause of pellagra is now engaging much attention, and Dr. Louis W. Sambon, the well-known authority on tropical diseases, has been visiting the United States, the West Indies, and the Panama Canal zone. Dr. Sambon is strongly of opinion that the disease is not due to the consumption of maize (sound or diseased), but is most probably an insect-borne disease, caused by a fly allied with the group represented by the sand-fly. Dr. Sambon also gained much useful information concerning the causation and topographical distribution of black-water fever, filariasis, elephantiasis, and leprosy.

**Radium in the Treatment of Cancer.**

Dr. Lazarus Barlow, Director of the Cancer Research Laboratories at the Middlesex Hospital, considers the question urgent, "whether the State should not assume control of the sources of radium in this country, for the benefit of the 85,000 people who annually die of cancer in these islands." The absence of radium, for purposes of treatment is, he says, heart-breaking.

Dr. Barlow considers that enough radium ore is to be found in Cornwall to practically meet the needs of the country, if the Government purchased the Cornish mines and then sold the radium at a price based on the cost of production.

As illustrating the effect of radium on the inoperable cases received in the cancer department at the Middlesex Hospital, Dr. Barlow states that in the June-September quarter in 1912 24 cases were admitted, and 24 died—*i.e.*, 100 per cent. In the same quarter last year, 68 cases were admitted. The deaths numbered 36, and 32 patients were in so favourable a state as to be discharged from the hospital.

**Causation and Treatment of Pneumonia.**

Sir Almroth Wright, in his report to the Rand Native Labour Association on the results of an enquiry into the Causation, Prophylaxis, and Treatment of Pneumonia, discussed at length the relative merits of drug and vaccine treatment. He is in favour of the control experiment as a means of testing therapeutic efficiency.

As the result of experiments, Sir Almroth Wright has found that the normal blood serum of whites and tropical natives has not power to destroy the germ of pneumonia, and that the blood of the native does not acquire this either through natural or artificial infection. In this it differs from the blood of the European, but, whereas Europeans have to some extent become inured to the disease, in the natives it has found a virgin soil.

The real predisposing cause in the case of pneumonia is to be found . . . in that abiding defect of resisting power which is normal to the native.

## APPOINTMENTS.

**MATRON.**

**Beverley Dispensary and Hospital, Beverley.**—Miss A. L. Burkhill has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and has since held positions at the Carnarvonshire and Anglesea Infirmary, Bangor, and the Baguley Sanatorium, Timperley.

**The Isolation Hospital, Maesteg.**—Miss A. L. David has been appointed Matron. She received her training in the same institution.

**NURSE MATRON.**

**Hendon Isolation Hospital.**—Miss Alice Stevens has been appointed Nurse-Matron. She was trained at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, and in fever nursing at St. William's Hospital, Rochester. Miss Stevens has held the following appointments: Sister, Ruchill Hospital, Glasgow; Night Sister at the Heart Hospital, Soho Square, and at Edmonton and Enfield Isolation Hospital; and Sister, and for five years Assistant Matron at the Ilford Isolation Hospital.

**The Infectious Diseases Hospital, Upney, Barking.**—Miss Mary C. G. Chrystie has been appointed Nurse-Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Perth, where she held the position of Charge Nurse. She has also held the position of Senior Ward Sister at Crewe, and of Nurse-Matron at the Isolation Hospital, Runcorn.

**THEATRE SISTER.**

**Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo.**—Miss Margaret E. Palin has been appointed Theatre Sister. She was trained at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, and has been Theatre Sister and Sister of a Medical Ward in the same hospital.

**HEALTH VISITOR.**

**Newburn Urban District Council.**—Miss J. Innes has been appointed Lady Health Visitor. After being on the staff of the Hebburn Hall Accident Infirmary, she was trained at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she was Charge Nurse of the Children's Wards. Miss Innes later joined the Nurses Home in Granville Road, Newcastle, and since then has had considerable experience in district nursing.

**SCHOOL NURSE.**

**County Borough of Stockport.**—Miss Edith McClarnon has been appointed School Nurse. She is a certificated nurse and certified midwife, and has held the position of Head Nurse and Teacher of Midwives at the Portwood Nursing Home, and has worked as Tubercular and Health Nurse under the Southampton Corporation.

**Education Committee, Southend-on-Sea.**—Miss C. A. Alderman has been appointed School Nurse. She was trained at the Infirmary, Hammersmith.

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE.****TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.**

Miss Eva Hodges is appointed to Seaford; Miss Ella O'Connor to Coventry; Miss Bertha Osborne to Chapelton; Mrs. Jessie Skelcher to Burnley as Tuberculosis Nurse; and Miss Ethel M. Smith to Beckington.

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