

EARLY TREATMENT AND PROTECTIVE INOCULATION IN TUBERCULOSIS.

In an article on the above subject, translated from the original, and published in the *International Journal of Public Health*, Professor K. Shiga, of the Kitasato Institute for Infectious Diseases, Tokio, states that the general rule that diseases should be treated in their incipient stage is particularly applicable to tuberculosis. But as yet we have for its treatment no other method than to promote and to assist the natural healing processes of the tissues. Hence we must endeavour to make generally known the importance of early treatment.

The danger of infection in tuberculosis begins, he states, only when the disease has arrived at the so-called open stage. It is, therefore, extremely important to combat the evil before this dangerous period, and that not only from the point of view of successful therapy, but also for the sake of prophylaxis.

Professor Shiga hopes now to take one step further in advance, and to undertake treatment by immunization before the appearance of symptoms. In other words, he would administer tuberculosis vaccine during the stage of incubation of the disease. That is what he understands by early treatment or protective inoculation in tuberculosis.

This protective inoculation is capable of suppressing the outbreak of tuberculosis. At the same time another remarkable phenomenon is observed. When children who are sickly and predisposed to the disease are inoculated, Professor Shiga has determined that their bodies become more vigorous, their appetite improves, and general development is promoted. In this way, he says, mortality may be reduced, the average duration of life prolonged, and the health of a nation be brought to a higher level. The segregation of consumptives in hospitals is of but little use in combatting the evil. Many tuberculous patients have no fever, and their general condition is fairly good. They walk freely in the streets, carrying bacilli in their sputum. What is the advantage, then, from a public health view point, of admitting a few of the contagious cases into a hospital ward?

The main aim of Professor Shiga's research is the suppression of tuberculosis. He is convinced that this aim can be obtained when protective inoculation during the period of incubation of tuberculosis becomes generally adopted. If tuberculosis patients are cured in the early stage, when the foci are closed, sickness through tuberculosis can more easily and more surely be prevented than by any other means.

NURSING ECHOES.

Our readers will learn with interest that Miss Christine Campbell Thomson, the talented young authoress of "Burgoyne of Goyne," which is reviewed as our Book of the Week on page 224, is the daughter of Mrs. Campbell Thomson, the very popular Nurse Hon. Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association. This will give it an additional interest to members of the Association, and they will no doubt take an early opportunity of placing it on their library lists.

Cavendish Square—that one time stronghold of eminent medical consultants—is being more and more developed as a business and Club centre, and the Nursing World appears to be securing its share. A Club has been formed, with the title of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., as a Share Company, the Memorandum of Association being signed by members of those Services. A Prospectus and a Form of Application for Shares are being circulated and applications invited, a deposit being paid on application and the balance on the allotment of Shares. The Club will be located at 34, Cavendish Square. Then we have a V.A.D. Club at No. 28, and the College of Nursing, together with other professional women, is to start one at No. 20. Just out of the Square, the "Pioneers" have secured No. 12, Cavendish Place—a lovely house and garden, which we should like to have seen Headquarters of the General Nursing Council, but which was thought too costly by the Ministry.

Patients are washed at 3.30 a.m. in a Stepney infirmary, according to the statement of a nurse at an inquest on a woman inmate of 74.

A doctor said he could not say whether it was the practice to start washing at that hour, though it was necessarily early. He undertook to convey to the proper authority the coroner's opinion that an inquiry should be made to decide whether it was necessary to wash patients so early.

We decide that it is *not* necessary if the ward work is properly organised, and the comfort of the patients receives rightful consideration.

There is little doubt that before long Panel Nurses will be available for insured persons, and in our opinion Nursing by well qualified Nurses would be a very sound additional benefit. Visiting Nursing for all classes has also come to stay.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)