

## CANCER RESEARCH.

The League Correspondent of the *Times* at Geneva states that the Health Committee of the League of Nations has considered and adopted an interesting report by its Cancer Commission, which suggests two points on which the League might bring about international co-operation leading to practical results.

The first is an investigation into occupational cancer. Experience shows that statements upon the incidence of such cancer cannot be accepted at their face value. It has been established that there is a very irregular distribution of cancer in different countries, even amongst workers in the same industry. The reason is unknown, but the Commission suggests that intensive study might bring about important economic results on account of the loss both in labour and in insurance liabilities which are entailed.

The second point is the radiological treatment of cancer. While the Commission's report, says the League Correspondent, leaves no doubt as to the value of this treatment, it indicates a lack of agreement as to the precise action of the rays, and the best methods of applying them. The value of the treatment is also shown to vary in different clinics.

The Cancer Commission, therefore, suggests obtaining precise details of the method or methods employed in those clinics where the published results of the ray treatment of cancer of the uterus (which is the form most often treated radiologically) over a series of years has been good, with a view to getting an authoritative statement upon at least the basic principle of the methods to be followed, with an indication of the dangers that may accompany such treatment.

## THE VALUE OF ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT IN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.

As the result of a demonstration in the effect of a three months' course of ultra-violet light on 50 pit boys at the Sherwood Colliery, Mansfield, the Committee which supervised it, and which included Sir George Berry, M.P., Sir Bruce Bruce-Porter, Mr. E. J. Deck, Dr. F. H. Humphris, Lieutenant-Colonel Hutchison, Major J. B. Paget, Dr. C. W. Saleeby, and Mr. E. Y. Fitzgerald, report that the boys ranged in age from 14 to 17, and at the end of the three months it was found that there had been an average gain in weight of 4 lb. 6.28 oz., and an average increase in height of 0.762 in. The figures contrasted with an average gain in weight in a control group of 50 boys who were not treated of 2 lb. 10.24 oz., and an average gain in height of the control group of half an inch.

Since the demonstration was completed the chairman of the colliery company has stated that the installation is valuable and that the clinic will be continued. The committee, in their report, recommend that wherever pithead baths are being installed light baths should be associated with them. They also recommend that, in view of the alleviation which such treatment can give to miners suffering from rheumatism, arthritis lumbago, and the after effects of pit accidents, a light clinic should generally be available to workers. The warning is given that there should be no use of artificial sunlight except under medical supervision.

## NURSING ECHOES.

No one can see the accompanying portrait of the little Princess Elizabeth, as she appeared on her second birthday, without rejoicing with her parents and grandparents at her lovely, healthy appearance. Health is the greatest gift of the gods, and may this charming little child grow to womanhood possessed in the highest degree of vigour and *joie-de-vivre*.

It should be the aim of every nurse to play a valiant and untiring part in helping to raise the standard of national health, and the nation's children should be her first love and care, so that health, wholesomeness, and joy may be the normal heritage of every child.

It is announced from the headquarters of the Grand Priory in the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, at St. John's Gate, E.C., that Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, who is a Dame Grand Cross of the Order, has consented to become Commandant-in-Chief of the Nursing Divisions of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

The Duchess of York has also graciously consented to become the first President of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, W.1. This Club was opened in 1921 for the benefit of members of the Naval, Military, and Air Force Nursing Services, who had taken part in the Great War, and of serving members of these Services.

On April 24th a Reception for Nurses was held from 6 to 9.30, in the Hall at the China Inland Mission headquarters on Newington Green, N.16.

The nursing staffs of at least a dozen hospitals were represented, as well as private nurses, the Nurses' Missionary League, and other institutions.

The first hour was spent in social intercourse and light refreshments; in this way new contacts were formed, and the visitors had opportunities of getting to know missionaries from all parts of China, many of whom were wearing Chinese dress, some representing the past, and some the modern Chinese lady.

Then followed a short talk from Dr. R. Walker, of Kaifeng Hospital, which contains 170 beds, where during the fighting of late years much Red Cross work has been done, hundreds of wounded soldiers having been treated there. At the present moment the whole hospital is being used by Marshal Feng, the Christian general, for his wounded men.

Miss M. Soltau, who for years has acted as Superintendent of Nurses at the same hospital, then gave a most interesting lantern lecture. Between the items a choir of missionaries sang a Buddhist chant, and several hymns in Chinese to Chinese tunes.

The closing message was given by Miss M. Baxter, who, though not a medical missionary in the strict sense of the word, has for years used dispensary work in inland China as a means of drawing in the people to hear the Good News of Salvation.

The doors in China seem to be slowly opening and missionaries are able to return to some parts. The need for young, strong Christian nurses and dispensers is

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