

recur in spite of the ingestion of enormous quantities of quinine. Once again synthetic chemistry appears to have gained a signal victory. By the attempted synthesis of the quinine molecule, a compound known as Plasmochin has been evolved in the same laboratories whence emanated "Bayer 205." As in the case of the latter, the effects of Plasmochin are being tested at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London. It has been ascertained there that the dosage originally suggested was too large, and that the action of the drug is intensified and rendered safer for universal use when it is combined with minute quantities of quinine. The action of Plasmochin on the malarial parasite is almost instantaneous and apparently permanent. There is little doubt that by the introduction of this drug a permanent and unprecedented advance in the treatment of malaria will be made, and the means for the prevention of this disease on an extensive scale will be at hand.

#### Sprue.

In sprue we have one of the commonest diseases of the tropics, and one which is not responsive to treatment in the countries in which it occurs. At the present time the greater part of the work of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London is devoted to the study and treatment of this disease. Such drugs as are now at hand are of little avail if not accompanied by a dietetic course which enables the patient to overcome an attack by improving his general condition. Nursing of the most meticulous care is required and is usually beyond the powers of a nurse who has not received special training in administering the carefully balanced dietary consisting of liver soup, milk and certain fresh fruits. Bael fruit and the paw-paw are brought specially from India for patients suffering from sprue in the hospital in London. In the pernicious and often fatal form of anæmia which accompanies an attack of sprue, it has been found that the transfusion of fresh human blood may be an effective method of obtaining a permanent cure: some of the results obtained by this means in London during the last two years have been remarkable in the extreme.

#### Other Tropical Diseases.

Sufferers from liver abscess are now relieved of the anxieties of a major operation. Instead of the resection of ribs, manipulation of the liver and the insertion of drainage tubes, the pus can be completely evacuated through a small puncture in the skin by Potain's aspirator. With the pus evacuated in this manner from the liver (often to the amount of several pints) the injection of emetine is followed by the drying up of the abscess cavity and the complete healing of the lesion. Patients can now safely be discharged within a period of three weeks from the date of aspiration, and the death-rate from liver abscess has fallen to practically nil.

In addition to their curative action on tropical diseases, the newly devised specific drugs mentioned above have been found, during the course of their application in that direction, to be applicable in an unexpected manner to some of the illnesses prevalent in temperate climates. Thus the study of the alkaloids of quinine in the treatment of malaria has revealed that quinine is efficacious in certain forms of heart disease, trypanamide effects good results in syphilitic diseases of the nervous system.

## NURSING ECHOES.

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of one hundred and twelve nurses to be Queen's Nurses to date April 1st, 1929, Seventy for England, four for Wales, twenty-eight for Scotland and ten for Ireland.

Just as we were ready to go to press a Dinner was held in the beautiful rooms of the Royal British Nurses' Association, at 194, Queen's Gate, in honour of Miss Helen L. Pearce, S.R.N., on her retirement from the responsible position of Superintendent of School Nurses under the London County Council, after thirty-two years of strenuous and honourable service.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick was in the Chair, and the Dinner was a delightful success.

The decorations were extremely lovely—a wealth of white lilac and single pink asters, and the company friendly and gay.

Contributors to the feast, which was excellently cooked and served, were the Princess Royal—a delicious haunch of venison from Braemar; Mrs. John Temple, M.R.B.N.A.—champagne of a fine brand; and the excellent liqueurs were the contribution of another member.

The Chairman read the following telegram addressed to her by H.R.H. the Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., President of the Royal British Nurses' Association:—

"Please convey to the Association's Guest my warm good wishes that she may enjoy her retirement, and my sincere congratulations on the splendid work she has achieved."

ALEXANDRA, *President.*

The gracious message of Her Royal Highness was received with great applause, and a reply telegram of thanks was at once sent to the Princess.

The toasts of "The King," and of "The Guest of Honour, Miss Helen L. Pearce," were received with acclamation, and the occasion was one to be remembered for the warm good fellowship and happiness of all present.

Miss Isabel Macdonald, responsible for the arrangements of the banquet, and Miss Beatrice Treasure, for the floral decorations, were accorded hearty votes of thanks.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing held recently at 58, Victoria Street, at which Sir Warren Crooke-Lawless presided, the report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives was carefully considered and a resolution in regard to it was passed and forwarded to the Minister of Health. The Duchess of Devonshire, Mrs. Bruce Richmond, and Miss Peterkin were appointed to represent the Institute on a joint committee to be set up by the Midwives' Institute in this connection.

We are asked to notify that the meeting of shareholders of the United Nursing Services Club, Ltd., 34, Cavendish Square, London, W.1, will be held on Wednesday,

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