

attention to this matter for some years past, and a pamphlet on British Mosquitoes and their Control has been published, which contains advice on the best methods of combating mosquito pests. My Department is also prepared on request to advise local authorities on the matter.

THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.

A Great Forward Movement.

It is inspiring news that, as a result of the decision of Mount Vernon Hospital at Northwood to place all its resources at the disposal of the medical profession in their task of combating cancer, a great forward movement has been started which may well lead eventually to a solution of the problem. This is the statement made in a letter to the *Times* from the Offices of the Hospital in Fitzroy Square, W.1, by Lord Knollys, Treasurer of the Hospital, Mr. Herbert Marnham, Chairman of the Council, Sir C. C. McLeod, Treasurer of the Appeal Committee, and Sir Thomas Horder, Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

They emphasise that Mount Vernon Hospital is not, in any sense, a local institution; its sphere of activity is Empire wide, and it is now receiving patients from many parts of the kingdom and from the Colonies. Nor is it a home for the dying. The Advisory Committee has been specially set up to advise the Council of Management on questions connected with treatment and research, and the medical staff of the hospital include the leading authorities of the day upon the treatment of cancer. Moreover, the hospital has been invited by the National Radium Commission to become the principal post-graduate training centre for the study of radium-therapy, to which medical practitioners from all parts of the country may come for training in this particular work.

The fine modern buildings of the hospital are unencumbered by debts, but it is necessary to augment its resources by the sum of at least £200,000 to enable it to tackle the problem to which it has addressed itself as it should be tackled—with an open mind as to method, with sufficient funds to ensure continuity of effort, without exaggerated expectations of sensational "cures," but in the sure and certain hope of ultimate success.

The signatories to the Appeal therefore ask the public to give generously and assure them that the money subscribed will be devoted, not to discharging old debts, but to the actual curative work by extending the accommodation for the treatment of patients, by the building of additional theatres, especially in connection with radium-therapy, for the equipment of larger laboratories, and for the extension of the nurses' home.

CHILDREN'S DIET.

It is quite true that in far too many homes less thought is bestowed upon the children's food than upon that of the domestic pets. Accordingly, any publication which briefly and clearly sets out the guiding principles is deserving of a warm welcome at the hands of parents, as well as of head of schools and other institutions. Among the subjects upon which light is shed by "Children's Diet," 12 pp., post free 3½d., issued by the Food Education Society, 29, Gordon Square, W.C.1, are malnutrition, rickets, constipation, dental caries, indigestion. The questions discussed include the number, nature and times of meals, their correct ending, over-feeding and pampering, the use and abuse of liquid. Milk and other puddings, like the bowl of bread and milk, receive well-merited knocks, as do excess of sugar and sweets. The part which such articles as meat, soup, bread, vegetables, salad and fruit should play is considered in detail. A plea is put forward for closer co-operation between home and school in matters of health and on the far-reaching consequences of faulty diet in early childhood.

HEALTH HINTS MISCELLANY.

The Health and Cleanliness Council, 8, Tavistock Square, London, W.C., is doing useful work in circulating Health Hints in concise and simple form. We print a selection below.

Permanent Health Habits.

If we are to be healthy we must keep our bodies clean, inside and outside. We keep the body clean on the outside by means of frequent baths, and a daily wash all over with soap and water. We keep it clean inside by seeing that waste material is not allowed to accumulate in the system. Drinking pure water in sufficient quantity is a simple means of keeping the system cleansed. It is important to form regular habits to ensure both forms of cleanliness. Training along these lines should start in earliest infancy if cleanliness within and without is to become a life-long health habit.

A Clean Skin.

Germs enter our bodies through breaks in the skin, cuts, scratches, and any kind of wound. A clean skin is a safeguard against infection in the event of damage to it, and proper care of the wound, no matter how slight it is, by cleansing and bandaging so that air cannot reach the raw surfaces, will save much suffering from the dangerous septic condition that results from dirt. Nor should coins, fingers, pencils, or soiled handkerchiefs be introduced into the nostrils or mouth. By carefully guarding the entrances to the body we lessen the risk of infection by other people's germs. Where there's dirt there's danger.

On Clothing.

One of the most important functions of clothing is to keep the body dry and clean. Clothing, specially that worn next the skin, should be changed often and washed well. It should be loose and of a porous nature, for ventilation of the skin is as important as ventilation in the house. The wearing of stuffy, unclean clothing is very liable to produce frequent colds; while the unpleasant odour of soiled garments is a sure indication that the body they adorn (?) is bathed in a constant atmosphere prejudicial to health.

The Safe Confinement and Cleanliness.

To all those interested or affected by the problem of Maternal Mortality the following resolution recently passed by the Executive Committee of the Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association is bound to appeal. "That this Committee would like to suggest, as one more precaution in the prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity, that the clothing of *all persons* attending women during parturition and the puerperium should be of washing material able to be sterilised."

The need for this is, of course, greatest in the small and poor homes, and particularly in those where, in spite of the general modern tendency to employ the qualified midwife, there is still a preference for the unqualified midwife as the assistant of the doctor.

Mothers themselves should realise that absolute cleanliness of everything which comes in contact with them during parturition is really essential. They should insist not only on complete cleanliness of room and bed, but on all the clothes of any person in attendance on them—no matter in what capacity—being changed frequently and washed with good soap and water and boiled.

White overalls should be worn by everyone, if possible, so that the slightest dirt can be detected as easily as possible.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)