

wound is then closed and the wax helps to compress the lung and allow it to contract, so closing the dangerous cavity. This operation has its drawbacks as the wax is a foreign body and nature does not like such things, so it tries to get rid of it by extruding it through the wound, which may then become septic. A much better method to collapse the lung is to remove the bony framework of the thorax, that is to say the ribs. This operation of thoracoplasty may be partial when six ribs are resected or complete when ten are removed, according to the amount of disease and the condition of the other lung, for as the collapse obtained is permanent any infection in the remaining lung must be inactive to stand the extra strain which is demanded of it.

The operation would appear to be very drastic, but with improved technique the shock is comparatively slight and the results surprisingly good. A good thoracoplasty is better than a bad artificial pneumothorax, although I agree its application is more limited. Naturally we find cases in which a combination of two or more forms of treatment can be applied with advantage. For instance, I have a case which has had a selective collapse on one side, a phrenic evulsion and a wax implant on the other. The wax implant became septic, so a partial thoracoplasty was done and the patient is now up and about doing light work and has no tubercle bacilli in his sputum.

In our enthusiasm for these somewhat exciting forms of treatment we must not forget that there are about 75 per cent. of cases in which it cannot be applied. For these we have sanocrysin and other gold salts. These have a beneficial effect in cases with a good physique, slight toxæmia, and show a tendency to heal. We often find that the gold tends to clear the X-Ray photograph of the woolly shadows of soft active disease, and also to clear the sputum of tubercle bacilli.

The treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis is still imperfect, but I hope I have shown that a vigorous effort is being made to offer a reasonable hope of recovery to every patient. Some day we hope to arrive at the solution of this difficult but intensely interesting problem. I hope that I have proved that the treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis is no longer the dull, uninteresting task it is generally thought to be, but one of unexpected and fascinating details. I have not mentioned many of the complications which arise; each one of these would require a lecture to itself, and you would find them full of interest both from a nursing and administrative point of view.

THE PROMOTION OF RESEARCH INTO MENTAL DISORDERS.

The Medical Research Council, in consultation with the Board of Control, has appointed a new committee to advise and assist in the promotion of research into mental disorders.

The committee will include representatives not only of psychiatry, medical psychology, and the study of mental deficiency, but also of neurology, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, and genetics.

The chairman of the committee will be Prof. E. D. Adrian, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S., a member of the Medical Research Council, and Sir David Munro, K.C.B., M.B., of the Council's staff, will act as secretary.

NURSING ECHOES.

The Prince of Wales, presiding, as President, at the Annual Meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London at St. James's Palace on June 5th, presented a gracious message from the King, Patron of the Fund, expressing His Majesty's appreciation of the success of its efforts on behalf of the hospitals.

The Prince also made the gratifying announcement that in the long fight with the results of the depression, the King's Fund had again maintained its distribution entirely out of annual income. The point of special interest to nurses in His Royal Highness's speech was his reference to the report of the Outpatients' Arrangements Committee presented later in the day on the ways in which the District Nursing Service can be used to relieve out-patient departments. "They have," said the Prince, "been greatly impressed, as everyone must be, by the splendid and devoted work done by the District Nurses in the patients' own homes. It was a good idea on the part of a member of the Committee (Dame Rachel Crowdy) to spend a few days going round with the nurses and seeing their work at first hand. That kind of thing adds life to a report."

The Out-patients' Arrangements Committee reported: (1) that their inquiries confirm the conclusion of the Out-patient Committee of 1932 that a considerable increase in the numbers of minor cases referred by hospital out-patient departments to District Nurses would be advantageous, both to the patients because they would be treated in their homes, and to the hospitals because out-patient crowding and waiting would be reduced; (2) that an increase in the general work of District Nursing would also be advantageous to the hospitals; (3) that the District Nursing Associations would need increased income to enable them to cope with the increase in their work; (4) that the benefit derived by hospitals from the increased work would also give the Associations a strong claim on support from the King's Fund, if and when the amount available for distribution should permit.

The report of the Committee, signed by Sir John Rose Bradford as chairman, concluded:—

"The Out-patient Arrangements Committee have been greatly impressed by the devotion, the skill and the sympathy with which the District Nurses do their arduous work, and by the great value of that work, not only to the sick who are nursed by them in their own homes, but also to the hospitals which are thereby relieved of many cases that would otherwise have required treatment either as in-patients or as out-patients."

It is regrettable, therefore, that "the Management Committee do not feel able to make any definite proposal at present."

The congratulations of the deputy-coroner for South London, Mr. C. G. Moran, to Miss Lillian Lang, a nurse at Guy's Hospital on her bravery in stopping two runaway horses, in a Southern Railway's van, in the Borough High Street, Southwark, were well earned.

Mr. Moran was holding an inquest on the driver of the van, who was crushed to death. Miss Lang seeing the man lying just before the front wheels of the van

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