

**ARTIFICIALLY PRODUCED RADIO ELEMENTS.**

M. and Mme. Curie-Joliot, the daughter and son-in-law of the late Mme. Curie, the discoverer of radium, who recently presented a paper on "Artificially Produced Radio Elements," at the International Conference on Physics at the Royal Institution, made the interesting announcement that they hoped soon to be able to produce an artificial substitute for radium. They said:

"Future work will probably reveal to us new radioactive families, or unknown types of radioactivity with emission of protons, neutrons or other particles.

"The energies and intensities at present obtained in the tubes for producing accelerated particles allow us to hope that soon we shall be able to produce, by means of these particles, radio-elements with an intensity of radiation comparable or even superior to that of preparations of natural radio-elements now available."

**"LILY RASH."****AN OCCUPATIONAL DERMATITIS.**

Dr. W. H. Palmer, of Hale, North Cornwall, gives in *The Lancet* of October 6th an extremely interesting description of "Lily Rash" with possible preventive treatment. He says, in part:

"Lily Rash is an extremely distressing and even disabling dermatitis suffered by the workers who pick the daffodils and narcissi in the early spring; and although to dermatologists on the staff of a big city hospital this occupational disease may be of little interest, it is a very serious matter to the grower and worker in the bulb-growing districts (for example, in Cornwall, the Scillies, or the eastern counties). It is especially distressing to the grower if he is in a small way of business, as so many of them are; for instance, in 1933, it 'caused serious dislocation of the industry' (vide *Florist and Flower Grower*, March 25th, 1933.)

"The trouble varies from an irritating flush on the face to a generalised eczema, and individuals vary in susceptibility. Some are so sensitive that even a walk into a greenhouse containing open flowers causes an irritating flush on the face. Some are affected more by narcissus than daffodils, and vice versa. Also the disease appears to run in families.

"Soon after cutting and bunching the daffodils has been begun the typical case will start as a very irritating small papular rash on forearms and hands, apparently originating in the follicles or sweat glands, or in any cuts or abrasions. The irritation is so severe as to lead to continual involuntary scratching, even in sleep, and a secondary oozing eczema develops with consequent days of discomfort and sleepless nights. This eczema may become generalised all over the body (though the arms, neck, face, and thighs seem to be the most affected) and require weeks in bed to effect a cure. Once the papular rash has appeared cure hitherto has only been effected with the aid of entire cessation of handling the flowers—which may be very awkward for a small grower with his flowers ripening, or a worker to whom it means discharge as unsuitable for the job."

Dr. Palmer, after watching many patients with lily-rash during the 1933 season, formed the opinion that "it might be a sensitisation disease, and, if so, that a desensitising agent might be found." With the help of the "asthma" section of St. Mary's Hospital inoculation department, which prepared for him experimental extracts from the pollen, flower-heads, stalks and leaves of the narcissus, daffodil and jonquil plants, he has obtained interesting results from a series of intradermal tests on various volunteering flower workers in the summer of 1933, and he has arrived at the following conclusions:

"(1) From the clinical signs and the skin tests it would appear that lily-rash is a sensitisation disease. (2) That a

vaccine from daffodil stalks and leaves holds out great promise of being a preventive inoculation. (3) Inoculation on many susceptible individuals should be done next winter to test out the method further; and it is with the hope of such being done that these notes have been written."

In a technical note, Dr. John Freeman, of the inoculation department of St. Mary's Hospital, says:

"This lily-rash is very interesting, and is well worth the study, I believe, of 'dermatologists' on the staff of big city hospitals—for pathological reasons, if for no other.

"The quick skin reaction with the pollen and the delayed reaction with the stalk extract is curious; I have twice got the same delayed eczematous reactions with chrysanthemums in the case of London flower shop workers.

"I am not sure that Dr. Palmer is not dealing with two 'diseases'; the pollen sensitisation, which is probably trivial in its effects, and the stalk sensitisation, which is responsible for lily-rash."

**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION.**

Miss B. G. Alexander, R.R.C., past-President of the National Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation in South Africa—the composition of which we reported in our last issue—has been elected President of the Committee, and Dr. A. J. Orenstein, C.M.G., Vice-President. The Hon. Secretary is Mrs. K. C. Wright, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. P. Bilbrough.

At its first meeting the following Resolutions were agreed to by the Committee:—

That the initial object of the campaign is to raise a capital of £10,000.

That all branches of the Red Cross Society and the Trained Nurses' Association should be advised to form Joint Committees, and, so as to spread its activities, endeavour to form Local Committees or a Committee in every town; these Committees to report to the National Committee quarterly.

It is earnestly hoped, says the *South African Nursing Record*, that all branches of the Association, and all individual nurses throughout South Africa, will make an effort to help in some way to make this appeal a success. At present there are three South African nurses at International House, London, and those who have been there consider the courses provided are of the utmost value, and that the international contacts made are interesting from every point of view.

The National Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation in India are inviting applications for a Scholarship from trained nurses who are members of the Trained Nurses Association of India of the value of £250 sterling, to be held at Bedford College (University of London) in connection with the Foundation available either for the Public Health Course, or for the Course for Nurse Administrators and Teachers in Schools of Nursing.

The selection of candidates will be made by means of a competitive examination consisting of (a) a professional paper, and (b) a paper on general knowledge, subsequent to which the applicants' hospital marks and records will be called for scrutinising, and the final selection will be made.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)