

potents, various forms of attack now by means of injections, electric treatment, baths, drugs, etc., are but other methods of producing the same effects—that of irritation and counter-irritation. The earliest treatments have survived and stood the test of time and are sometimes resuscitated under high-sounding names. Balneotherapy was known in Biblical times, and massage and other forms of physical treatments, used long ago, have stood the test of time. Of late, much work has been done in gold therapy, and this has become established as one of the foremost treatments in rheumatoid arthritis. Vaccines have been longer in the field and, in view of many workers, still have their definite indications and place in treatment; while the new chemotherapy—represented by such things as prontosil, proseptasine, uleron, soluspetasine and the most recent M & B 693—have attracted much attention. It is too early to make any real estimate of the value of these chemical antiseptics. Sulphur and iodine have for long been used, and the most recent variation of this lies in the intravenous and intramuscular injection of suitable forms of these two drugs. Here again it is too early to assess real value or advance. Meanwhile, many of the old tried drugs remain safe in their usefulness, such as arsenic, iron, calcium, colchicum, guaiacum, the mild analgesics and the mild antipyretics. While we do not want to lay ourselves open to the charges we made earlier in the lecture (against some medical workers) for not recognising real advances and discoveries, yet we must be ever ready to guard against a too ready acceptance of new remedies often heralded by fanfares from manufacturers.

The lecturer next drew attention to one of the lines of experimental research now being carried on in connection with the possible treatment of rheumatism by induced jaundice. Results in connection with this are being awaited with interest.

The question of treatment cannot be left without stressing the outlook which we must take and apply. Not only the affected joint must be treated, but the whole body, and, indeed, we must, so to speak, treat the body's surroundings. The child must have a chance to combat rheumatism, starting from an attack of the disease in the parents, and food, surroundings, clothing, schooling and games must all have attention.

In closing, Dr. Stevenson said that we had come forward from the days when Aereatus felt that none but the gods understood rheumatism, and followed the river to a time when much more had come to be understood by man. But we must aspire in the future to an almost god-like knowledge of rheumatism and then we should be able to refer to Hippocrates, Rådulfe, Sydenham, Wiseman, Pott, Begbie, Jenner, Pitcairn, Lænec, Bouilland, Scudamore, Pasteur and many workers of the present day as true martyrs and saints in the history of rheumatism.

OBITUARY.

It is with regret that we have to report the death of Mrs. Jane Welch, a founder Member of the Association.

A SPRINGTIME RAMBLE.

A Springtime Ramble by charabanc through the New Forest to Salisbury, Romsey and Winchester provided a drive through exquisite scenery, and the visit to places of great historic interest was greatly enjoyed by members of the Association.

We shall refer to this instructive Ramble in our next issue.

FIXTURES.

June 1st.—Annual Meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association. 3 p.m.

June 9th.—Illustrated Lecture by Mr. E. F. King, F.R.C.S., on "Detachment of the Retina," 3 p.m.

194, Queen's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held in the Kent Room, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1, on Tuesday, April 18th, 1939, at 2.30 p.m.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, President, was in the Chair, and there were present:—Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary; Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., and Dame Ellen Musson, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Vice-Presidents; Miss M. F. Hughes, D.N., Miss G. Le Geyt, Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss Helen Dey, O.B.E., R.R.C., and Miss H. McLoughlin, Directors; Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., President, Matrons' Council of Great Britain; Miss E. T. Bickerton, R.R.C., President, Prince of Wales's General Hospital, Tottenham, Nurses' League; Miss B. M. Monk, C.B.E., R.R.C., President, College of Nursing; Miss E. Brodie, President, Scottish Nurses' Association; Miss Isabel Macdonald, President, League of Private Nurses; Miss R. Darbyshire, R.R.C., President, University College Hospital Nurses' League; Miss E. Dodds, R.R.C., President, County and County Borough Hospital Matrons' Association; Miss E. Cockayne, President, League of Royal Free Hospital Nurses; Miss W. P. Solomon, R.R.C., President, League of Fever Nurses; Miss M. E. Craven, President, West London Hospital Nurses' League; Mrs. M. C. Lediard, President, League of Mental Hospital Nurses; and Miss M. M. Ingman, President, St. Mary Abbots Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss S. A. Villiers, Hon. Secretary, read the notice convening the meeting and the Minutes of the last Meeting, which were confirmed and signed.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the delay in formally admitting the Nightingale Scholar to the International Course in 1938, owing to the death of Mrs. Rome, the Hon. Secretary of the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committee of Great Britain, which did not meet until her successor had been appointed.

Regrets for absence were received from:—

Miss E. Cockeram, President, General Hospital, Birmingham, Nurses' League.

Miss M. Steele, President, York County Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss G. M. Simms, President, Royal Waterloo Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss M. Wilmshurst, President, The Association of Queen's Superintendents.

Miss D. M. Smith, President, Middlesex Hospital Nurses' League.

Miss E. E. P. MacManus, O.B.E., Director.

Miss M. Littleboy, A.R.R.C., Vice-President.

Miss W. Bowling, President, The League of Trained Nurses of the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield.

Miss M. Jones, O.B.E., A.R.R.C., President, The Liverpool Royal Infirmary Training School Nurses' League.

Miss M. Husband, President, Glasgow Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

Miss M. Bonthron, President, The Radcliffe Guild of Nurses.

Miss A. B. Baillie, President, Bristol Royal Infirmary Nurses' League.

Miss M. G. Milne, President, The Leeds General Infirmary Nurses' League.

Miss E. E. Monie, President, The Nurses' League of the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Paisley.

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