

matism is not actually present, arsenic or iodide of potassium and thyroid extract are sometimes ordered externally.

Breathing exercises and increased activity of the kidneys, bathing and regulation in diet, and X-ray therapy have given good results.

Locally, ointment containing salicylic acid, tar, resorcin and carbolic acid have sometimes succeeded.

Injections of colloidal manganese have been used and whole-blood injections. A simple and effective method is an injection of the patient's own blood (automæmotherapy); from 5 to 10 m.l. of blood is withdrawn and immediately reinjected into the patient intramuscularly. This has proved very successful in some cases.

ELECTRIC SHOCK TREATMENT SUCCESS.

Excellent results in the treatment of mental disease by electric shock therapy are mentioned in the annual report of James Murray's Royal Asylum, Perth.

The Physician-Superintendent, Dr. Chambers, states that the method has numerous and great advantages over the older methods of hypodermic or intravenous injection, and in some cases, notable results have been obtained. Even granted that in many cases recoveries would in due course have occurred with less dramatic treatment, the saving in time through shortening the illness is striking and important. Out of 44 cases under treatment, 18 were still under treatment at the end of the year, but 12 had been discharged recovered, and 3 greatly relieved with good prospects of further advance. Tribute was paid to Dr. Nicolson for her work in connection with the treatment.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEASURING INSULIN.

It is stated that errors or inaccuracies in the measurement of insulin are not infrequent, and are often caused by confusion in correlating units of different types of syringe. The increase of incidence of errors and of associated hypoglycæmic attacks is causing doctors some concern and much unnecessary trouble.

Dr. S. L. Simpson has made it possible to publish a simple and effective scheme of instruction in a few words and with clear diagrams as used at the Willesden General Hospital Diabetic Clinic, which should be appreciated by doctors and nurses responsible for the supervision of diabetic clinics or of diabetic patients.

The front page of the card contains the instructions; page two shows illustrations of syringes; and page three the same for marked dosages.

A specimen card will be sent on receipt of 8d. by the publisher, H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 136, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

INSPECT SWILL TUBS.

We note suggestions that people should put down their faithful dogs because of the cost of scraps of food. Before this sacrifice is made, we advise their owners to inspect the swill tubs of the hordes of foreign evacuees now living on our bounty. We learn, on good authority, that extravagance and waste is abnormal in this district, and presumably elsewhere. We commend scrutiny to women M.P.s.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Ernest Brown, addressing the Council of the Welsh National Memorial Association in Cardiff recently, said that since the Association was founded 30 years ago, charged with the task of preventing and eradicating tuberculosis, the number of deaths from tuberculosis in Wales had been halved. Unfortunately in dealing with the war-time increase the Association was having difficulty in making use of the beds which were available because of lack of nurses and domestic workers.

Every effort was being made through the Ministry of Labour and National Service to find the necessary domestic staff for hospitals and sanatoria. "I find it hard to believe," added the Minister, "that in Wales, where the women are outstanding in their voluntary efforts in all phases of the war effort, and where the appeal to the heart never fails, a great humanitarian service such as this will be allowed to continue to be hampered by the lack of volunteers. This is a Welsh problem, affecting Welsh sailors, soldiers, airmen, and war-workers who need treatment, and it must be solved by Welsh women."

The Minister said that there were three important factors in the campaign against tuberculosis—early diagnosis and treatment, nutritious feeding of the people, and good housing. The Ministry had just taken two important steps to improve early diagnosis and treatment, through the scheme for mass miniature X-ray photography and for the grant of financial assistance for the maintenance of the dependants of workers who undergo treatment.

"Those who have to give up work temporarily for treatment, which is in the public interest as well as their own, should no longer be deterred by the chill of fear that their families will suffer financial distress."

It has been the pre-occupation of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Food with the advice of experts to secure that, despite war conditions, food of the right quality is available to all. The measure of success is seen in the general health standard of the population to-day. In war-time we have become food conscious; willy-nilly, we are becoming educated in the relative nutritive values of food. This is by no means wholly a financial question, and I hope that our post-war plans will include not only the provision of the means of adequate subsistence for all, but the continued education of the public in nutrition.

"Bad housing conditions are breeding-grounds for tuberculosis. Although we had gone far in the inter-war period to improve housing conditions generally, there still remained, when our plans were interrupted by this war, a great deal to be done in many directions, and particularly in improving housing conditions in rural Wales, which even before the war presented an immense task. We have a tremendous housing programme to tackle in the immediate post-war years. Not only must we remedy the shortage of houses required for newly-married people and for replacing houses destroyed by bombing, but we must press on relentlessly with our slum clearance and reduction of overcrowding programmes."

The Minister later performed the opening ceremony of the 600-bed Merriston Hospital, near Swansea, which has been built at a cost of £180,000 under the Emergency Hospital Scheme. Until heavier emergency demands arise, five wards with 200 beds are being placed at the disposal of the Welsh National Memorial Association for tuberculosis cases, and the hospital will also be used to relieve the pressure on the Swansea and General Eye Hospital.

This is the Minister of Health performing the duty for which his department is responsible, and we agree with his admirable address.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)