

## B.C.G. Vaccination Against Tuberculosis.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland for a start to be made shortly in using the vaccine known as B.C.G. as a protection against tuberculosis. This is not a form of treatment or a cure for the disease, but only a method of vaccination that may prevent a person from getting it. Experience alone will show how far it is effective under conditions in this country.

The time has not yet come for widespread or indiscriminate use of B.C.G., and for the present it will be used only within a defined scope and on the responsibility of tuberculosis specialists. It will consequently not be possible for this form of vaccination to be obtained by anyone going to his own doctor for it, though a doctor who may consider it advisable for a particular individual will be in a position to refer such a person to a chest physician with special knowledge and experience of tuberculosis.

The scheme that is at present in view will be in two main parts. B.C.G. vaccination will, in due course, be offered, subject to certain individual medical tests, to all hospital nurses and medical students as one among other precautionary inoculations that doctors and nurses commonly undergo against risks liable to be met with in their professional calling. This will be a big task, but it will be steadily proceeded with as quickly as the work can be done. Secondly, B.C.G. will be made available to chest physicians with special knowledge and experience of tuberculosis who may wish to give the vaccine to persons known to be in close contact with someone suffering from tuberculosis, always provided that such a person satisfies the preliminary medical tests.

## Exhibition on Aids, Appliances and Services for the Rheumatic.

Arranged by the British Rheumatic Association.

TO the best of our knowledge the first Exhibition ever to be held in this country entirely devoted to the interests of the rheumatics is being arranged for its members and the public by the British Rheumatic Association from September 27th to 30th, London, at the Town Hall, Chelsea.

A special feature of the Exhibition is a comprehensive display of all wheel chairs, pushed, hand-propelled, electric and motorised. Arrangements have been made for those interested to be tested as to their capacity to drive an electric chair and to receive special instruction on the Highway Code from the Safety First Officer. There will also be a Demonstration of the activities of the Disablement Section of the Ministry of Labour, of "Remploy" and of voluntary organisations in training and work for the disabled. The aids and appliances related to home-therapy, physiotherapy and possibly radiotherapy will be included.

The B.R.A. has arranged the Exhibition as a service to all the rheumatic disabled as well as their members in order that without effort they may see under one roof all that may interest them. The entrance is at street level.

A two-day Conference on (1) the welfare of the rheumatic patient, and (2) the interests of the handicapped rheumatic, will take place concurrently with the Exhibition. It is designed to be of interest to all official and non-

official bodies concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and after-care of the rheumatic patient and with the training, home employment and industrial marketing on behalf of the rheumatic and other handicapped persons. Tickets for the Conference, 10s. Application to Headquarters, 5, Tite Street, Chelsea, S.W.3. Telephone: Flaxman 2957.

## Nursing Echoes.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of 147 nurses to be Queen's Nurses; 111 in England, 30 in Scotland and 6 in Northern Ireland.

A MOST INTERESTING OCCASION was the Tea Party given by the British Council, at 56, Portland Place, W.1, to meet five Egyptian Matrons who, prior to visiting 10 London hospitals and having a sight-seeing tour round London, had attended the British Council's Course in Edinburgh. The five Matrons were: Miss Attiya Fahmy, Matron, Fouad 1st Institute and Hospital of Tropical Diseases; Miss Zahira M. Fayed, Matron, Chest Diseases Hospital, Abbassiah; Miss Fathia Mustafa, Matron, King's Hospital, Cairo; Miss Dawlat Aly Mustafa, Matron, Mehalla El Kadr Hospital; and Miss Enayat Ahmed Abdalla, Matron, Helonar General Hospital.

The privilege of conversation with these ladies we much appreciated.

Their evident enthusiasm was most refreshing, and when remarking how much their ideals resembled our own, the answer came: "Of course! for Britain leads in professional nursing." We admired their command of the English language—a small but happy instance of East Meeting West.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND for London is arranging, at the request of the North-West Metropolitan Regional Board, a course for senior ward sisters to take place from Tuesday, October 11th, to Saturday, November 5th, 1949.

The courses so far given at the Staff College have been in preparation for ward sisters posts, whereas this new course is intended for experienced ward sisters. Like the preparatory courses, it will deal with the questions of ward teaching, personal relations and ward administration.

The third of the four-month preparatory courses has been arranged to begin on Monday, November 14th.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the Prevention of Tuberculosis is pleased to announce that the Scholarship of £300, offered by the Association to enable a Matron from a British Sanatorium to spend three months visiting tuberculosis institutions in Canada, has been awarded to Miss Nora Burrows, Matron of Baguley Sanatorium, Wythenshawe, near Manchester.

It is hoped that a Matron from a Canadian Sanatorium will in due course pay a similar visit to this country.

A SCHOLARSHIP of £100 to £150 will be awarded by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis to a registered female nurse working at the time of her application in a hospital in Scotland. The Scholarship will enable her to spend a period of from three to six months in post-graduate study, in hospitals or clinics (a) Scotland, (b) England, or (c) Scandinavia.

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