Lethane 384 Special (12.5% N-butyl carbaryl thiocyanate; 37.5% beta-thiocyanoethyl laurate; 50% refined paraffin).—Produced by Messrs. Rohm and Haas of Philadelphia, U.S.A., and obtainable in Britain through Messrs. C. Lennig, Windsor House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. It is to be noted that the material is sold in 50% dilution. We dilute it a further 50%, giving a final 25% concentration of the effective drugs. We have used the same oil as already mentioned.

Derris Cream.—This is made up for us by Messrs. Cooper, McDougall and Robertson of Berkhamsted. The cream we have used has been a solution of derris extract in castor oil, the whole emulsified suitably to make a cream containing 1% of rotenone and 7% of derris extract. In our samples the emulsifying agent was lanette wax, but there are other similar materials which might be equally effective.

REFERENCES

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Medical Memoranda

Epidemic Catarrhal Jaundice

Epidemics of catarrhal jaundice are by no means infrequent. In Price's *Text Book of Medicine* reference is made to outbreaks occurring in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1930 and 1935. It is of interest to record a minor local outbreak in the same county in September and October, 1941. Twelve cases have been reported, including two that were only suspect (5 male and 7 female). Nine of them were between 2 and 16 years of age, one was 24, and two were in the forties.

One case dates back to September 15, two to September 30, eight started during the period October 2 to 13, and one did not begin until October 22. Three began with influenzal symptoms—i.e., feeling chilly and as if they had a rise of temperature—and nine, including the two suspects, began with gastric symptoms. Two cases occurred in each of two families, and one suspect, a child aged 2, shared a bed with his aunt, aged 13, who was affected. Of the nine different families concerned, five were at the same end of the town.

Possible Modes of Spread.—The recognized modes are by the enteric route and by the nasopharyngeal route (droplet infection). In this series the nine different families obtained their milk from eight different milkmen, all producer-retailers in a small way. Some took all their meals at home, others dined at canteens; some included in their dietary those articles of food so often suspect—pies and sausages; others indignantly denied eating made-up foods. In short, there was no uniformity in school, place of worship, place of employment, milk supply, or diet. In favour of the disease being spread by "droplet infection" are: the occurrence of two cases in the same family on two occasions, a suspect and an actual case in relatives in another, and two girls from different families who had been playmates both contracting the complaint; in two other cases the parents stated that playmates had had jaundice, though these further cases did not come under medical care and were not investigated; and, perhaps the most interesting point of all, the very last case in the series was that of a rent collector who stated that in the course of his work he had been into several houses where cases of jaundice had recently occurred.

Recovery in all cases was uneventful, and opportunity for carrying out tests for hepatic efficiency did not arise. An unsuccessful attempt was made to obtain supplies of sulphaguanidine for clinical trial. In so far as any conclusion can be drawn from such a small series of cases, the balance of the evidence is in favour of "droplet infection" as the mode of spread.

My thanks are due to local practitioners for voluntarily notifying the above cases.

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Dr. Ralph I. Lloyd became president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology on January 1, and Dr. James A. Babbitt, emeritus professor of clinical otolaryngology in the University of Pennsylvania, took office as president-elect.

Reviews

MUIR'S PATHOLOGY

Textbook of Pathology. By Sir Robert Muir, M.A., M.D., Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S. Fifth edition. (Pp. 991; illustrated. 35s. net.) London: Edward Arnold and Co. 1941.

The fifth edition of Sir Robert Muir's classical *Textbook of Pathology* closely resembles its predecessor in content and arrangement, as well as in excellence of production. There are nevertheless numerous changes in the text incorporating advances in knowledge during the past five years. Among new subjects introduced are the study of experimental hypertension by Goldblatt and his followers, and regional ileitis; there are descriptions of two new tumours, glomangioma and adenolymphoma; and melanoma has been taken out of the section on sarcoma and placed in a separate category. The description of teratomata has been rewritten, with a reference to the bearing on this subject of Needham's work on organizers. The aetiology of cancer is dealt with more fully and incorporates a description of recent work on the hereditary factor in man and that of Bittner (whose name and Masugi's in the chapter on nephritis are misspelt) on the mode of transmission of susceptibility to breast cancer in mice. The description of Bright's disease has also been extensively rearranged and rewritten. Condensation elsewhere has so balanced these additions that the present volume is actually three pages shorter, in spite of containing twenty-eight more illustrations than the fourth edition.

It is a great achievement again to have brought this pre-eminent work fully abreast of recently acquired knowledge. Its great virtues are reliability as to fact, and authority of judgment in matters of controversy: for either the student or the more senior seeker after knowledge there is no sounder guide.

ABDOMINAL SURGERY

Operative Surgery: Including Anesthesia, Pre- and Post-operative Treatment, Principles of Surgical Technic, Blood Transfusion, and Abdominal Surgery. Edited by Frederic W. Bancroft, M.D., F.A.C.S. (Pp. 1,102; illustrated. 55s. net.) New York and London: D. Appleton-Century Company, Inc. 1941.

The rather long title of this book on operative surgery of the abdomen has at least the advantage of outlining the field it covers; presumably other volumes are to follow on other branches of operative surgery. The chief appeal of the present volume will be to the so-called (and sometimes maligned) general surgeon, a term rapidly coming to mean the abdominal surgeon who also maintains his interest in the science and art of surgery considered as a whole. True, the general surgeon may have particular interests or surgical hobbies outside the abdomen, but there his chief work lies, and for him this is an excellent modern guide-book. Under the editorship of the associate professor of clinical surgery in Columbia University, thirty-four authors have combined to produce it, and these include such well-known names as Alton Ochsner, who writes on appendicitis; Urban Maes, on the spleen; Mont. A. Reid, on surgical technique; F. W. Rankin, on the large bowel; Alfred Blalock on pre- and post-operative treatment; Rudolf Schindler, on gastroscopy; and A. O. Whipple, on the surgery of the biliary tract.

The book is divided into twenty sections, each consisting of several chapters, printed in attractive clear type and well illustrated by photographs and line drawings and with several coloured plates. Some idea of the scope of each section may be gathered from the introductory one on anaesthesia, which includes chapters on pre-anaesthetic medication, inhalational, rectal, intravenous, spinal, and regional anaesthesia, each written by a different author.