A NOTE ON THE "MAN VALUE" OF WORKING CLASS DIETS.

BY

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THE "man values" of diets consumed by various samples of working-class families were published in a recent report by one of us and Viscount Dunluce.¹ The reduction to "man values" was effected by the application of the coefficients used in America, and provisionally adopted by the Food Committee of the Royal Society. It was, however, pointed out in an appendix to the report (op. cit., pp. 40-41) that the only direct measurements of consumption available to us, those of Slosse and Waxweiler, suggested that the consuming power of children was seriously underestimated, and consequently the "man value" of a family diet overestimated, by the orthodox method of calculation. Further evidence has now been accumulated, and the results of Lusk and others make it probable that the indications afforded by Slosse and Waxweiler's measurements are correct. The Inter-Allied Food Commission has accordingly adopted a new standard (Table I). The change in the coefficient for women from 0.80 to 0.83—that is, of 3.75 per cent.—causes all the estimated man values of

TABLE I.

Attwater's Coefficients.		New Coefficients.	
Ages.	Man Value.	Ages.	Man Value.
0-5	0.4	0-5	0.5
6-9	0.5	6-10	0.7
10-13	0.6	11 and over:	
14-15:		Males	1.0
Males	0.8	Females	0.83
Females	0.7	All children, combined ages*	0.68
16 and over:			
Males	1.0		
Females	0.8		
All children, combined ages*	0.51		

* These values (for use when the ages of children are not specified) were obtained by multiplying the appropriate coefficient by the census population of children at the age to which the coefficient applied and dividing the sum of the products by the total population under 16.

TABLE II.—Energy Value of Various Dietsaries.

	Calories Calculated by Attwater's Coefficients.	Calories Calculated by New Coefficients.
Rowntree—York Families:		
Class I. Wages under 26s.	3,000	2,574
Class II. Wages over 26s.	4,102	3,390
Class III. Servant keeping	4,052	3,807
Board of Trade:		
I. Wages under 25s.	3,094	2,670
II. Wages 25s. to 30s.	3,348	2,879
III. Wages 30s. to 35s.	3,581	3,036
IV. Wages 35s. to 40s.	3,589	3,034
V. Wages over 40s.	4,013	3,330
British Agricultural Labourers:		
Northern Counties	3,654	3,085
Midland Counties	3,398	2,868
Eastern Counties	3,598	3,037
Southern and South-Western Counties	3,634	3,067

the diets taken by female munition workers to be slightly too high. For families including several children the difference is substantial, and we have thought it advisable to recalculate the figures for all the family samples. The results are shown in Table II. It will be seen that the original estimates were much too high.

REFERENCE.

¹ An Inquiry into the Composition of Dietaries, with Special Reference to the Dietaries of Munition Workers. Medical Research Committee Special Report Series, No. 13, London, 1918.

Memoranda:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL.

SEPTICAEMIA DUE TO MIXED INFECTION.

T., a man in good condition, was admitted to hospital in a typhoid state; the evening temperature on the day of admission was 104°. The history was that he had had for a few days before admission general catarrh and mild bronchitis. The pulmonary condition soon cleared up, but the temperature continued high, and he was thought to be suffering from enteric fever. With a view to establishing the diagnosis I made a blood culture and found in all the tubes *Bacillus septicus* and a staphylococcus. The culture was made on the tenth day of his illness, and the evening temperature had been 103° to 104° all this time. His condition was then critical, and, in fact, the medical officer in charge of the ward was of opinion that he could not live much longer. On the evening of the twelfth day of illness I gave him a mixed autogenous vaccine, the dose being 35 million of *B. septicus* and 50 million of the staphylococcus. The temperature almost immediately dropped to normal, which it had not reached previously during the illness, and his general condition was much improved; later it went up again to 101.8°; the next morning it was subnormal, but rose at night to 100°; the following day he had another similar dose of vaccine, and the temperature rapidly fell to normal, and so remained.

I consider a record of this case of importance for the following reasons:

1. I am unable to trace a record of any similar case, although the organisms found are extremely prevalent.

2. The autogenous vaccine apparently had an almost miraculous effect on the patient's temperature and general condition.

3. The case emphasizes the need for more frequent blood cultures in febrile conditions arising out of colds, bronchitis, etc.

4. Finally, the symbiosis present in the case is of interest; the presence of the staphylococci possibly augmented the virulence of the *B. septicus*.

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Reviews.

LIFE OF MISS SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE.

WITHIN a comparatively short time three books of great biographical interest have appeared, all dealing more or less with medical Edinburgh, and recalling "old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago." Mr. Miles's *Edinburgh School of Surgery before Lister*, reviewed on April 6th, is necessarily devoted solely to life and work in the northern Athens, whereas Sir Rickman Godlee's great biography of Lord Lister, already in its second edition, and the *Life of Sophia Jex-Blake*¹ now before us, deal fully with important events occurring in Edinburgh, which, however, was not the only scene of their subjects' activities.

As Lord Lister wished, his published life mainly tells the story of his surgical achievements, whereas Dr. MARGARET TODD has contributed a much more elaborate study of her friend's intimate life and character. A member of a Tory Norfolk family and the daughter of highly orthodox parents, Miss Jex-Blake's electric personality was rather a disturbing element in her family,

¹ *Life of Sophia Jex-Blake*. By Margaret Todd, M.D. (Graham Travers). London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 1918. (Pp. 574; 4 illustrations. 18s.)