

importing milk by train were inspected; 268 of them were found to have no license, and 137 of them were carrying the milk in open cans without covers. The scheme for the abolition of stables inside the city and their transfer to rural areas outside Bombay has unfortunately been held up by legal difficulties.

With the completion of the new Tansa pipe line, the city as a whole is now provided with an adequate and constant water supply. The whole supply was chlorinated throughout the year, and no provision of any kind is made for filtration. The present sewer system is quite inadequate and the continuance of the old insanitary basket privies leads to a gravely insanitary system. The only satisfactory feature of present day conditions is that the Corporation pay a subvention of Rs. 100 to landlords for each privy converted into a water closet within three months of due notice having been received; and landlords are beginning to realize that this enhances the value of their property.

With regard to housing, financial considerations and the difficulty experienced in preserving a balance between the number of insanitary dwellings demolished and the number of new tenements provided to take their place has led to the postponement of action in a number of areas. Since the year 1898 the City Improvement Trust has provided 47,342 new tenements as against 32,522 tenements demolished.

The volume also includes minor reports in addition to that by Dr. Sandilands. Dr. P. T. Patel contributes a report on the working of the Arthur Road Hospital, and another on the Maratha Plague Hospital for the year. Smallpox was prevalent during the year, and reached its maximum with 140 admissions in March. Case mortality was 8 per cent. among the vaccinated as against 41 per cent. among the unvaccinated. There were 129 admissions for plague during the year; and anti-plague bacteriophage was under trial but gave disappointing results. The municipal laboratory was in charge of Dr. C. Coutinho, and carried out 5,599 examinations during the year. Thirty per cent. of samples of *ghi*, 26 per cent. of those of butter, and 20 per cent. of those of tea dust, were found to be adulterated. Full details of the results of water analysis are given in tabular form. Dr. K. N. Choksy reports on the vaccination work of the year. The total number of vaccinations performed was 35,643, and in primary vaccinations the success rate was 93 per cent. Ninety-three per cent. of the Haj pilgrims passing through Bombay during the year were vaccinated in Bombay before embarkation.

Correspondence.

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, MERCK.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the article by Dr. S. C. Nag, entitled "Notes on the Use of Carbon Tetrachloride," published in your journal for December, 1929, which describes various toxic symptoms that in his cases arose after the administration of this drug. The discussion at the end of the article leaves it open to doubt whether these symptoms may possibly be attributed to impurities in the drug used. Since this latter was Carbon Tetrachloride "Merck," the whole matter was placed in the hands of my Analytical and Pharmacological Laboratories for comment.

They now report that in their opinion the toxic effects observed cannot possibly be attributed to the Carbon Tetrachloride "Merck." This preparation is manufactured to conform with the requirements of all pharmacopœias. Apart from this, it undergoes further tests to guarantee its complete freedom from chlorine, carbon disulphide, phosgene and other organic impurities; additional tests are made regarding its specific gravity and boiling point.

I should like to take this opportunity of referring your readers to Dr. Heraldo Maciel's article on "The Use of Carbon Tetrachloride as an Anthelmintic," which appears in E. Merck's *Annual Report, 1929*, Part 3.

Dr. Heraldo Maciel, who is Staff Surgeon in the Brazilian Navy (D. P. H., Rio de Janeiro), occupies such a position that he can speak authoritatively on this subject. He states:

..... "The innocuity which we have observed in the medicament we attribute mainly to the age of the majority of our patients (generally young men of from 16 to 30 years of age), to the small doses, and finally to the purity of the product which we use, namely nectarine or Carbon Tetrachloride extra pure 'Merck'....."

I may say, therefore, that the toxic effects, observed by Dr. S. C. Nag, must definitely be attributed to other causes.—Yours, etc.,

E. MERCK.

DARMSTADT,
17th February, 1930.

LIQUID EXTRACTS OF KURCHI.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In connection with my paper on "The Use of a Standardized Preparation of the total alkaloids of Kurchi bark in Amœbic Dysentery" in your issue for February, 1930, the following corrections should be made:—

(i) On p. 81, first column, line 20, the paragraph should read:—

"I had samples purchased in the bazaar of the preparations by Messrs. B. K. Paul, the Bengal Chemical Co., Messrs. Smith Stanistreet, the Union Drug Co., and Dr. Bose's Laboratory analysed with reference to their alkaloidal content, and the total alkaloidal content was found to vary from 0.214 to 0.128 per cent. (1928)."

These examinations were carried out on samples purchased in the bazaar, and the analyses were carried out in the middle of 1928. To-day in 1930 I am assured that the state of affairs is very much better. The watery extracts which were in use in 1928 are now not in use to any extent, and have been generally replaced by alcoholic extracts which are well up to standard strength. This is as it ought to be.

(ii) On p. 81, second column, line 18, please read "Campbell Medical School Hospital, Calcutta," and not "Carmichael Hospital" as stated.—Yours, etc.,

A. R. MAJUMDAR, M.B.

CAMPBELL HOSPITAL,
Calcutta, 6th March, 1930.

(Note.—With regard to the first correction, we believe that the paragraph as originally printed was what was sent in by our contributor. For the second mistake, we must take the blame for an editorial error. Dr. Majumdar's entire article had to be re-typed after correction before sending to press.—EDITOR, I. M. G.)

THE PURITY OF TUBE WELL WATERS.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Lieut.-Colonel Clemesha's letter in your February issue on the above subject contains a suggestion of great value. We have been much puzzled in Rangoon by the bacteriological findings in tube well waters after heavy rainfall.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Morison, I.M.S., when in charge of the Pasteur Institute here, believed that most of our bacillary dysentery was due to contamination of the water supply. The main water supply of the town is from Hlawga Lake a reservoir some 14 miles from Rangoon. This supply is chlorinated, though the protection afforded by this measure appears to be reduced by leaks in the distribution system. Only a relatively small proportion of our supply comes from

tube wells, which are for the most part over 150 feet deep.

I am loath to believe that these wells have been to any great extent responsible for our bacillary dysentery outbreaks which occur principally in the fly breeding season, but, following up Lieut.-Colonel Morison's suggestion, Dr. Mackey and I have examined the tube well waters with the results noted in our article in your January issue.

Lieut.-Colonel Clemesha's theory appears to me the probable true explanation, and I am grateful to him for making it and hope to carry out a test on a cement grouted well during the present year. The well I propose to grout is one which is 168 feet deep, does not pass through an impermeable layer, and which has shown consistent evidence of pollution following rainfall, though the water is of a high standard of purity in the dry weather.—Yours, etc.,

G. JOLLY,

Lieut.-Colonel, I. M. S.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BURMA,
SECRETARIAT, RANGOON,
5th March, 1930.

COCONUT MILK AS AN ANTHELMINTIC.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—A European patient of mine who suffered from symptoms of cardiac distress sent me one day a dry specimen of an intestinal parasite of which he said he passed quantities at intervals. I only saw him again after a month or so, when I remarked his general physical improvement, and he told me of an unusual experience he had gone through. He said that shortly after consulting me, he was on tour and one day drank the water of a tender coconut. A day or so later he passed what, from his description of it, appears to have been a matted clot of an entire tapeworm.

My cook, who has a knowledge of preparing fresh infusions and "teas" from Indian herbs, has now on two occasions prepared a warm drink of coconut "milk" and common salt for children suffering from a bloated abdomen and such other symptoms of hookworm infection as anæmia and breathlessness. On both these occasions, although no definite examination of the stools could be made nor a specimen brought, the statement was made that the children were very much better after having passed a "handful" of tiny worms.

One's curiosity having been aroused, this remedy as an anthelmintic has been vouched for on more than one occasion. I shall be much obliged for the opinion of a food analyst, or, through the medium of your columns, for a scientific explanation of the peculiarly beneficial action of the water of the tender coconut, or the "milk" of the adult coconut in such cases.—Yours, etc.,

H. STOKES.

WESTCLIFF, KOTAGIRI, NILGIRIS,
SOUTH INDIA,
7th February, 1930.

"APHONIA AFTER QUININE ADMINISTRATION."

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In the January 1930 issue of the *Gazette* Dr. N. S. K. Iyer reports a case of aphonia following quinine administration.

Whilst I was in charge of a dispensary at Kalva in the Kurnool district in 1902, there came to me a Mahomedan boy of 8 years old, asking for a dose of purgative. I gave him, I remember, a dose of Pulv. Jalapæ Co., according to his age, at about 8 a.m. At noon on the same day his father brought him to me, complaining that the boy could not speak, although he was all right in all other respects. I wished to keep the patient under observation until the

evening, but, to satisfy the father, I gave him half an ounce of Aqua Chloroformi, with a request that the boy should be brought to the dispensary in the afternoon. When he came, I was glad to note that he was able to talk as usual. Subsequently I was informed by the compounder that the bottle contained plain water instead of Aqua Chloroformi.

Therefore a simple purgative can also produce "aphonia."—Yours, etc.,

S. A. JEGARAYA MUDALIAR, L.M.P.,

Civil Assistant Surgeon (retd.).

ST. ANTHONY'S COTTAGE,
COIMBATORE, SOUTH INDIA,
30th January, 1930.

MILK INJECTIONS IN SKIN DISEASES.

To the Editor, THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—The treatment of eczema and psoriasis by intramuscular injections of milk deserves to be better known. I have recently treated a series of such cases by this method with very good results. The milk is sterilized by heating in a test-tube, and the injection given intramuscularly into the buttock, twice a week. I commence with a dose of 1 c.c., and increase the dose by 1 c.c., up to a dose of 5 c.c. Courses of from 6 to 16 such injections give very satisfactory results in such cases.—Yours, etc.,

RAM PROSAD,

Medical Officer.

SARSO DISPENSARY,
P. O. MANIGATHI, DARBANGA,
4th March, 1930.

Service Notes.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. L. Harnett, M.B., F.R.C.S., I.M.S., Superintendent, Campbell Medical School and Hospital, is appointed to act temporarily as Professor of Clinical and Operative Surgery, Medical College, and Surgeon to the College Hospital, Calcutta, *vice* Lieut.-Colonel H. B. Steen, M.D., I.M.S.

Lieut.-Colonel J. S. O'Neill, M.C., I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, from Bareilly to Cawnpore.

Lieut.-Colonel B. E. M. Newland, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon, from Moradabad to Bareilly.

The services of Lieut.-Colonel G. T. Burke, M.D., I.M.S., are placed permanently at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces, with effect from the 16th February, 1924.

The services of Major P. N. Basu, I.M.S., are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces, with effect from the date on which he assumes charge of his duties.

Major W. P. Hogg, D.S.O., M.C., I.M.S., an Officiating Agency Surgeon, is posted as Agency Surgeon in Bhopal, with effect from the 17th February, 1930.

In the previous orders placing the services of Major M. Fazluddin, O.B.E., I.M.S., temporarily at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab for employment in the Punjab Jail Department for the words "with effect from the 1st January, 1930," read "with effect from the 20th January, 1930."

Major H. E. Murray, M.D., M.Ch., I.M.S., is appointed as Civil Surgeon, Bakarganj, with effect from the forenoon of the 21st March, 1930, *vice* Major S. A. McSwiney, I.M.S., granted leave.

Major W. C. Spackman, F.R.C.S.E., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.T.M. (Lond.), I.M.S., is appointed as Officiating Professor of Midwifery and Gynæcology, Grant Medical College, and Superintendent, Bai Motlibai and Sir D. M. Petit Hospitals, during the absence on leave of Lieut.-Colonel Hamilton,