

THE MILK SUPPLY OF THE LONDON CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS.

A MEETING of representatives of the lay Boards and medical staffs of the principal London Children's Hospitals was held at Great Ormond Street on Friday, April 26th, to discuss the means by which a more uniform and satisfactory milk supply to these institutions could be secured. Mr. Arthur Lucas, the Chairman of the Hospital for Sick Children, presided. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. The milk shall be pure, genuine, and with all its cream as yielded by the cow, and absolutely free from any and every kind of adulteration, including preservatives. It shall be of such quality as shall produce at least 3.5 per cent. of butter fat.
2. It shall be supplied from a farm, or farms, whose name, or names, and locality are notified to the hospital.
3. It shall be permissible for an authorized representative of the hospital to inspect such farm, or farms, at any reasonable time.
4. The cows supplying the milk shall be in a good state of health, and the veterinary surgeon shall give a certificate at least once a quarter to that effect.
5. The milk shall be strained and refrigerated at the farm, and there canned and sealed.
6. The milk shall be delivered, sealed, at the hospital, within 24 hours of milking.
7. It shall not be "pasteurized" or treated otherwise than as mentioned in Clause 5 without the written sanction of the hospital authorities.
8. It is advisable that the milk as supplied to the hospital should be tested bacteriologically and chemically once a week.
9. That the name of the medical officer of health of the district in which a supplying farm is situated be furnished by the contractor, and that he be informed of the relation between the farm and the hospital, and that he and the clerk of the urban district council be supplied by the hospital for their information with a copy of these recommendations.

These resolutions would seem well adapted to the desired purpose. They make no demands on the milk contractors further than might reasonably be expected in a grave matter involving the welfare of the many patients in the London children's hospitals. It should be possible, too, to adopt them without unduly raising the price of milk supplied to these institutions. Before adoption they will, of course, have to be submitted to, and approved by, both the lay and medical committees of each of the hospitals concerned. A unanimous agreement on the part of the children's hospitals on the point might prove a potent factor in the improvement of the milk supply of London in general, now so lamentably defective. It is a pity, too, perhaps, that these institutions were not more directly consulted by the different municipal authorities before establishing their present systems of milk dépôts.

SECRET REMEDIES AND PROPRIETARY PREPARATIONS.

CONTINUING his publications on new remedies, secret and proprietary preparations, Dr. Franz Zernik¹ deals with some substitutes for migraenin. He mentions that since he wrote about *sulfofyrin*, the firm which brought this preparation out entered into a correspondence on the subject, and notified its intention to introduce a sulphanilate of antipyrine in molecular proportions, that is, roughly 52 per cent. of sulphanilic acid and 48 per cent. of antipyrine. This preparation has now appeared under the name of *beta-sulfofyrin*. The dose recommended by a medical man who has employed it is 1 gram four or five times a day. He advises it for iodism and for catarrhal affections of the respiratory organs. In spite of the claims put forward by the manufacturing firm, Dr. Zernik finds that *beta-sulfofyrin* is a mixture of about 50 parts of the sulphanilate of sodium, 45 parts of antipyrine and 5 parts of sulphanilic acid.

Migrophon is another substitute for migraenin. It is to be given in doses of 0.25 gram once or twice. It is said to be a chemical combination of quinine and lecithin, and it is claimed that the bitter taste of the former is considerably toned down in the compound. On examination, he found that it was simply a mixture of about 10 per cent. of lecithin and 90 per cent. of quinine sulphate, and

¹*Deut. med. Woch.*, March 21st, 1907.

that, contrary to the prospectus, its solubility is identical to the solubilities of the two constituents, namely, 0.2 per cent. in cold water. It has a very bitter taste.

Alformin is advertised as a basic formate of aluminium which can be used instead of aluminium acetate. It is supposed to possess from two to three times the astringent power of the latter, to be considerably more disinfectant and more stable. For external application it is to be used as a lotion diluted with 8 or 10 times the quantity of water; as a gargle or mouth wash 8 or 10 drops are to be put into a glass of water. Zernik found that it contains about 14 per cent. of basic formate of aluminium and nearly 3 per cent. of free formic acid. It decomposes fairly easily, as does the acetate. While the free formic acid may enhance the disinfectant action, it is necessary to realize that this acid is present on account of its possible irritant action.

Iodofan is said to be a condensation product of resorcin, iodine, and formaldehyde, and is recommended as a substitute for iodoform. The various analyses have led to very different results. It appears that the preparation varies very greatly; one sample contained only 4 per cent. of iodine instead of the theoretical 47.75 per cent. It is further claimed that formaline is split off from iodofan, but this could not be detected chemically. It thus appears that the small and varying content of iodine and the failure to give off free formaline renders it unlikely to prove a good substitute for iodoform, but the final judgement must be left to bacteriologists and clinicians.

Ziegler's Specific against Jaundice and Gall Stones, according to the prospectus, has been used throughout Germany, for twelve years without advertising. It is supposed to be the cheapest and most efficacious remedy for jaundice. Two "glasses" are required for cure, while obstinate cases may require a third glass. Each glass contains 100 grams of a mixture of 20 per cent. potassium carbonate and 80 per cent. dried sodium sulphate, and costs 6 marks.

Dr. Lauser's Stomach Powder is a proprietary remedy prepared by a dispensing chemist, T. Lauser, under the supervision of a general practitioner, Dr. Lauser. They claim that it is the best remedy for all diseases of the stomach and intestines. The dose recommended is one teaspoonful four times a day, dissolved in water. On examination it was found that the constituents do not correspond with the ingredients given by the manufacturers. It actually contained sodium bicarbonate 23.62 per cent., sodium sulphate 18.08 per cent., magnesium carbonate 22.25 per cent., precipitated calcium carbonate 22.38 per cent., powdered wood charcoal 3.34 per cent., powdered ginger 3.09 per cent., gum arabic about 0.81 per cent., bismuth subnitrate 0.42 per cent., sodium chlorate 0.48 per cent., water 4.15 per cent., ferric oxide and a trace of aluminium.

Dr. Lauser's Cough Drops are prepared under the same supervision, and, like the preceding, differ in composition from the supposed ingredients. They contain only 3.35 per cent. of alcohol, so that a statement about 50 per cent. tinctures is wrong. Besides, the mixture appears to consist of an aqueous solution of liquorice, an infusion of senna root, some liquor ammoniac anisatus, and small quantities of ammonium chloride.

Reichel's Cough Drops cost 1 mark for a bottle containing 65 c.c.m. The purchaser is supposed to take 15 or 20 drops on sugar or in water four or five times a day. It is an alcoholic fluid, smelling and tasting of arnica, pimpinella, and anise.

Anticelta Tablets are produced by the Anticelta Association, 62, Chancery Lane, London. The tablets, each weighing 0.52 gram, are put up in oval boxes. The directions are that one or two can be taken after each meal, and that they are quite harmless. Apart from this, the advertisement contains details of dietaries. The tablets contain chiefly sodium bicarbonate and 1.25 per cent. of a digestive ferment.

Retterspitz Water was the stock-in-trade of a female charlatan, and was supposed to cure inflammation, and especially appendicitis, when applied locally. The woman being now dead, her relatives send the water out at 4s. 6d. a litre. The liquid is a whitish-yellow opalescent fluid, in which a precipitate occupying about one-fifth of the bulk is found. It is probably an aromatic water mixed with an albuminous substance derived from milk.