

(From *The Canadian Nurse*, June 1925.)

THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF CANCER.

A very interesting paper by Julian London, B.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., F.A.C.P., Chief Physician, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Associate in Medicine, University of Toronto, and Dr. Jas. McCormack, entitled "Preliminary Report on the Glover Micro-organism as the specific cause of Carcinoma," appeared in the *Canada Lancet and Practitioner* for January of this year. The authors describe how they took tissue and blood from cancerous mice, and from these sources were able to isolate and culture a specific micro-organism which was observed to pass through a decidedly peculiar life-cycle. On account of certain characteristics exhibited by this micro-organism it is believed that it is a member or near relative of the moulds or hyphomycetes. If this work is confirmed and accepted, cancer will come to be defined as a chronic infective disease due to the Glover hyphomycete, which, in certain stages of its existence, grows in epithelial cells and stimulates them to unwonted reproductive activity. Further reports will be awaited with interest, and it is hoped that the work will lead to more efficient treatment of this terrible scourge to which humanity has been subjected from earliest times.

(From *The American Journal of Nursing*, June 1925.)

THE MUSTARD PACK.

By E. NORA NAGLE, R.N.

Mustard as a counter-irritant has long been used both by the medical profession and the laity. Easily obtained and easily applied, it has been used with good effect in the hospital and in the home. The mustard pack is just one of the many methods—and a very good method—of applying mustard as a counter-irritant. It is used in such conditions as (1) a beginning bronchitis, to relieve the congestion and resulting dyspnoea which is so distressing to the patient; and (2) to ward off an attack of asthma. Adrenalin is usually used with the treatment in this instance. The treatment may be ordered to be given once or twice in the day for three consecutive days. It is rarely continued for any longer period. The procedure of the treatment is as follows:—

Equipment necessary—(1) Three rounded tablespoons of ground mustard (preferably from a freshly opened can). (2) A basin and hot water. (3) Two bath towels. (4) Two soft warm blankets. (5) Warmed oil or vaseline and cotton balls for lubrication of the skin. The mustard is mixed with ten ounces of hot water and stirred for two minutes. One bath towel is immersed in the solution and squeezed partly dry, placed in the warm basin and covered with a towel. The equipment is carried to the bedside. It is essential that the room be warm and free from draughts. One blanket is folded under and over the child, replacing the upper bed clothes, which are folded to the foot of the bed. The patient's garments are removed, except the diaper in the case of an infant. The skin is anointed well, but sparingly, with the warm oil or vaseline. The mustard towel is shaken out and is folded around the child's body from the

armpits to the hips and well over the anterior chest. There must be no wrinkles or creases in the towel. The patient is wrapped, excluding the arms, in the second blanket. The under blanket is then folded securely round the patient as in any other pack. The child remains in this position for fifteen minutes. During this time the skin becomes very red, but it must never be allowed to blister. The breathing usually becomes quieter during the interval. At the end of fifteen minutes a basin of water, temperature 105 degrees Fahrenheit, is brought to the bedside. The mustard towel is removed under the blanket covering, and the patient is well sponged with the water and dried, and again wrapped in the lower blanket. During the next half hour the patient very often sleeps. The colour and breathing show marked improvement. At the end of the time the child is removed from the blanket, is rubbed with warm alcohol or camphorated oil, is re clothed and left warm and comfortable.

HEALTH VISITORS' LEAGUE PAGE.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS,

I have had no letters this month, a sad state of affairs. It is hard work making bricks without straw as you evidently expect me to do. I wish each of you would realise that it is your duty to provide me with 'straw' in the shape of letters occasionally. There are several members from whom I have never received a letter; I shall feel obliged to publish a 'Black List' if these members do not amend their ways and realise their responsibilities to the League and to each other.

I read the following piece the other day and think it will be of interest to all Health Visitors:—

THE GREATER TASK.

"Nothing is more striking in the study of progress than the advance of thought beyond the practical application of an accepted principle. Thought has led the way by so great an advance that while it is only in comparatively recent days that any real progress has been made in practical science and in the scientific treatment of disease, the philosophical principles taught by Plato are modern in their instruction, and are still regarded as having a contemporary value in learning.

The study of the profession of medicine and of the treatment of disease may be said to illustrate this point. The early idea of disease as a punishment for sin or as an event which must be borne with the fatalism of the helpless sufferer, has given way to a wider conception of the whole problem of human suffering. Nemesis still inflicts the punishment of disease upon those who disobey the