

MEDICAL MAGAZINE PAGE.

DEFATTED BACTERIAL VACCINES.

DR. DREYER, Professor of Pathology at Oxford, has discovered a method by which those bacilli which are coated with fat, and so protected from the action of vaccines injected to overcome them, can be defatted and rendered vulnerable, for unless the dose of poison contained within the fatty sheath can be set free, the body will not make the antidote against it. Among the germs so coated is the tubercle bacillus. Already experiments are being carried on with defatted vaccines among the tubercular patients in several hospitals; and hopeful results are being obtained—we read that patients who were going downhill are showing signs of improvement.

Health gives the following "striking extract from the *Journal of the Minnesota Public Health Association* which shows an American method of forcibly bringing home to the public the necessity of warring against this terrible scourge of tuberculosis:—

"I believe that I am a consumptive and will die, unless I can take the treatment which requires rest, outdoors, and much good food.

"You believe that I am infectious, a danger to you and yours, and the community.

"We believe, you and I, that if I go on working I will die, and while I am dying at my work I will form also a starting point for the same dread disease amongst my comrades and my own family.

"I believe that my disease is not my own fault; I got it from a poor fellow who was situated then just as I am now; he kept on working beside me until he died, that's how I got it.

"You believe that it is not your fault—of course not—you did not give it to me.

"We believe, you and I, that it was the fault of the community who left the previous consumptive to work beside me while he was dying.

"I know I am not a pauper nor a charity case now, but soon I will be both, and then I will be so far gone in my disease that I will die anyway. That is a nice prospect.

"You know that if I quit work and 'loaf' at home, I'll be more dangerous to my folks than I would be to my comrades because I will be with them twice as long every day.

"We know, you and I, that consumption can be cured if taken in time; that it becomes worse, and more infectious, as it goes on; that every month, every week, every day that I go on without rest, outdoors, good food, makes me worse, more dangerous and poorer; I tell you it costs money to be sick,

"My people cannot stand the expense if I 'loaf' at home; they cannot stand the expense of my taking treatment that would cure me. They cannot afford to let me die.

"I must work to live; and if I work I die.

"For God's sake, Gentlemen, what am I to do?"

MORAL DRAWN FROM THE ABOVE.

"What did you do? He's dead now; his family is infected from him; some of his comrades at work are infected too; certainly one or more persons will follow him down that same sunless path of suffering, poverty and death, because he died—neglected.

"What will you do about others still living? Nothing, as you did about him? No. This thing must stop; stop it now."

INSULIN.

As long ago as 1889, it was shown experimentally that diabetic symptom followed extirpation of the pancreas in the dog. Later work indicated that these symptoms were due to the absence of an internal secretion, necessary for normal carbohydrate metabolism, which is constantly secreted into the blood of the healthy subject, and that this secretion appears to be produced by the collections of specialised tissue contained in the pancreas and known as the Islets of Langerhans. As a result it is now very generally accepted that diabetes mellitus arises from a degenerative condition of these islets, with a consequent deficiency of their secretions, and many attempts have been made to isolate the active principle concerned, with a view to its employment in the treatment of diabetes.

In 1922 it was announced that workers in the University of Toronto had succeeded in producing a preparation containing this active principle—to which the name Insulin was given—in a form suitable for therapeutic use, and that satisfactory results had followed its injection in cases of diabetes mellitus. The aim of the Insulin treatment is to supply the patient with sufficient of the active principle to make up for the deficiency of his natural supply, and so to enable him to metabolise an adequate quantity of carbohydrates. Control of the manufacture of Insulin in the British Isles is vested in the British Medical Research Council. By them a licence for its preparation has been granted to Burroughs Wellcome & Co., who now supply Insulin of their own manufacture under the "Wellcome" Brand.

CHILDREN AND LIFE.

BY DR. R. MACDONALD LADELL.

Health.

"Baby is too young to notice" is a dangerous formula which should never be heard.

Baby is never too young to notice. Long before he can ask questions he is absorbing impressions and turning things over in his little brain. He is constructing for himself an imaginary world from his own limited standpoint. Later on he will have to adjust his impressions to correspond with reality. In this process he will ask questions, some of which will be answered, others