

has organized itself into a Provincial Medical Association with constituent district and local medical societies.

The organization of the Department of Cancer Control has already progressed to a stage where Cancer Study Committees are being formed in hospitals of the one hundred bed minimum capacity. In one province this part of the organization has been completed. In at least three other provinces the work has progressed so far that it will probably be completed by the time this goes to press.

An Authorship Committee has been formed. It is already at work preparing a book on cancer; this will present in concise but comprehensive form the early signs and symptoms of cancer in the various sites. When complete, it will be the result of the collaboration of the physicians and surgeons of the universities of Canada. It is proposed to place a copy in the hands of every Canadian doctor.

The organization of the Canadian Society for the Control of Cancer is necessarily a more difficult task. The sub-committee responsible for this has appointed a Provisional Board of Directors composed of three prominent laymen and three doctors. This Board is proceeding with the work of organization. Already it has taken steps to organize a provincial branch in each province,

where a branch or a division of the Canadian Medical Association exists. With this end in view a member of the Provisional Board of Directors recently visited each of the Canadian provinces. In each he conferred with the officers of the Provincial Medical Association. In eight provinces these men are now engaged in securing the consent of active laymen and women to act as the officers of the provincial branch of the Cancer Society.

So soon as provincial branches are organized they will be invited to elect a representative to the Grand Council of the National Society. The Council thus constituted will then convene and constitutionally appoint a Board of Directors which will replace the Provisional Board.

It is hoped that the Society will serve as an agency which will enlighten the Public regarding the early signs and symptoms which may be indicative of cancer and the benefits which result from early recognition and prompt treatment. It should also serve to stimulate those who can afford to do so to make financial contributions which will make it possible to extend aid to research workers.

From time to time readers of the *Journal* will be supplied with detailed information relating to the progress of this work of organization.

J. S. MCEACHERN

Editorial Comments

Vaccination Against Whooping Cough

The somewhat unsatisfactory results of some workers with *H. pertussis* vaccine led the Council of Pharmacy of the American Medical Association to omit this form from the list of "new and unofficial remedies" in 1931. Since this time more favourable results have been reported in children by Madsen in the Faroe Islands, Sauer in Chicago and Kendrick in Grand Rapids. In the last instance, of 1,592 children, 712 vaccinated and 880 controls, 67 cases of whooping cough developed, of which only 4 were in the vaccinated group. To what may one ascribe their apparent success? In each case the vaccines contained 10 billion killed *H. pertussis* per c.c., the organisms having been cultured on some form of Bordet-Gengou medium, enriched in one case with horse, in the second with human, and the third with sheep

blood. The bactericidal agents used for killing the organisms were formalin, phenol and merthiolate respectively. Large doses were employed by Sauer and Kendrick and smaller ones by Madsen. One common factor however was the use of "young", "recently isolated" or "phase I" cultures, and it is this that we would like to stress. For the work of Leslie and Gardner, Lawson and Shibley, and Hoelscher has shown that this organism occurs in various phases, or R and S forms if you will. This change from virulence to avirulence seems to occur readily, yet there are apparently no different specific sub-types in the whole group. Can it be that in the vaccines that failed completely virulent forms were not used? So much for the use of vaccines of whole organisms in man.

In animals the most recent experimental work is to be found in a paper by Burnet and

Timmins.¹ They describe a novel method of infecting anæsthetized mice by intranasal instillation of an emulsion of living *H. pertussis*, and in one experiment where a carefully computed infecting dose was employed were able to show definite protection, using a formol-killed vaccine.

Several other vaccines have been described, *i.e.*, Kreuger's extract of *H. pertussis*, the Mulford Laboratories' soluble vaccine, and the Glaxo Laboratories dissolved vaccine. But the most advanced work with a fractional antigen is that of Cruickshank and Freeman.² They have succeeded in chemically separating an antigen from cultures of *H. pertussis* which in suitable dosage will protect mice against an intraperitoneal inoculation of this organism lethal for control animals. This work appears to offer high promise, and it is to be hoped will before long be applicable to human beings since whooping cough still ranks among the distressing contagions with disagreeable after-effects.

ARNOLD BRANCH

1. BURNET, F. M. AND TIMMINS, C.: Experimental infection with *hæmophilus pertussis* in mouse by intra-nasal inoculation, *Brit. J. Exper. Pathol.*, 1937, 18: 83.
2. CRUICKSHANK, J. C. AND FREEMAN, G. G.: Immunizing fractions isolated from *hæmophilus pertussis*, *The Lancet*, 1937, 2: 567.

Proposed Organization of Canadian Physicians Interested in Physical Therapy

Recently a letter was forwarded by Dr. R. B. Taylor, of Montreal, to the Superintendent of each of the hospitals listed by the Department of Hospital Service of the Canadian Medical Association, asking them to pass this letter to the Physician-in-charge of the Department of Physical Therapy of their hospital or to some member of the staff who is interested in the subject, calling attention to the fact that an attempt is being made to organize a Committee on Physical Therapy under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Medical Association.

It is desirable that every physician in Canada who is interested in this subject should have representation in the Councils of the Canadian Medical Association. Physical therapy has become more and more a part of modern medicine. Such an organization will increase the respect of the doctors in Canada for this subject, and in addition will give those interested

an opportunity of cooperating with one another in the solution of their problems.

Will every physician who is interested communicate immediately with Dr. Ross B. Taylor, 324 Medical Arts Bldg., Montreal, Que., in order that he may have the necessary data to present to the Executive Committee when they meet in the near future? The assistance of the Council on Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association in the organization of a Committee similar to their own has been assured. If certain hospitals or individuals have been omitted it has been due to lack of addresses. Dr. Taylor will be pleased to hear from all physicians interested in physical therapy.

A.G.N.

The Panel System

Dr. W. A. Jones, of Kingston, Ont., writes us in regard to the working of the Panel System in Great Britain. Our General Secretary was in Europe last summer gathering data in regard to this matter and on health insurance generally. He brought back a very complete and illuminating report. But, of course, his information, whether for or against, was derived from local (British) sources. Doctor Jones makes the suggestion that it would be interesting to get the views of Canadian doctors who have worked in Britain under the system, whether as *locum tenentes* or in other capacities. Some of those who have done so have come back to Canada with an unfavourable impression. That there are certain shortcomings in the practical operation of panel practice most would admit, but, no doubt, the merits of the system exceed the demerits. However, we would be glad if any Canadian doctor who has personal knowledge of the operation of the scheme would communicate his views to us through the General Secretary. Let us have the facts.

A.G.N.

Dr. Eugene St. Jacques

We learn with pleasure that the Academy of Sciences in Paris has granted the Montyon Prize to Dr. Eugene St. Jacques, Professor of Surgery at the University of Montreal, for his work on the treatment of acute infections by intravenous carbon.

This prize, amounting to fifteen hundred francs, was to be formally conferred at a public meeting of the Academy on Monday, December 20th. We tender Dr. St. Jacques our congratulations on this signal honour.

H.E.M.

