commence the individuals are usually beyond the most susceptible age period of 0–20.

The two authors deal very fully with the epidemiology of the disease; it is interesting and perhaps topical to mention that leprosy has been almost eradicated from Norway, where it was formerly a serious problem, as the result of an enlightened prophylactic and segregation policy, the latter partly on a voluntary basis.

In a book in which slips are few and far between I had the somewhat sardonic pleasure of hunting down one "entomological inexactitude." The correct label for the crab louse is, of course, Phthirius pubis, not Pediculus pubis. Nowadays, too, the head and body louse are recognized to be subspecies or races of one species, Pediculus humanus. These are, however, small blemishes in a book which does not set out to be a treatise on entomology.

The book was a joy to read and should prove of inestimable value to those whose daily task brings them in contact with lepers and leper problems.

S. S.

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**Notices.**

**AMINOPHYLLINE.**

Aminophylline, a combination of theophylline with ethylenediamine, is a recent addition to the range of products issued by Burroughs Wellcome and Co. This preparation is stated to possess the valuable therapeutic properties of theophylline with a considerably reduced tendency to produce gastric and renal irritation. The greater solubility conferred by the ethylenediamine component is believed to increase its rapidity of action and render it suitable for parenteral administration.

Aminophylline may be used as a general diuretic or a mild myocardial stimulant. Its effect in improving the blood supply of the kidney renders it valuable in relieving oedema in diseases of the kidney and heart.

**SONERYL.**

The demand for a Soneryl suppository of greater strength than the existing 3-grain product has led to the introduction of a new packing: 5 x 10-grain suppositories.

Soneryl has proved of outstanding value in conditions necessitating the administration of a hypnotic and sedative. In rapidity of action and of elimination it approaches the ideal qualifications required in a preparation of this nature. The packing of 5 x 3-grain suppositories is supplemented by the addition of the new pack referred to above.

Soneryl is also available in soluble form (soneryl sodium).

Pharmaceutical Specialities (May and Baker) Limited, Dagenham, will be glad to send full details of Soneryl, on request, to any member of the medical profession.
HEXOBARBITONE.

We are informed that hexobarbitone (N-methyl-cyclohexenyl-methyl-barbituric acid) is now issued by Burroughs Wellcome and Co. as "Tabloid" Hexobarbitone and as the sodium salt Soluble Hexobarbitone, the latter for producing anaesthesia of short duration, for which it is injected intravenously. Soluble Hexobarbitone is of particular value in minor surgery, in simple tooth extractions, and to intensify gas-and-oxygen anaesthesia. It may also be used for the induction of general anaesthesia in operations of not more than twenty to thirty minutes' duration and, by rectal administration, to produce hypnosis and in the treatment of acute and chronic alcoholism. Soluble Hexobarbitone (Burroughs Wellcome and Co.) is issued in phials of 0.5 gramme and 1 gramme. Each phial is accompanied by a "hypoloid" ampoule containing sufficient sterile distilled water to prepare a 10 per cent solution of "Hypoloid" Soluble Hexobarbitone. "Tabloid" Hexobarbitone, grains 4, is given orally to produce light hypnosis.

PROSEPTASINE AND SOLUSEPTASINE.

FOR USE IN HæMOYTIC STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

A new leaflet on Proseptasine and Soluseptasine has recently appeared, and a copy has been sent to us by the makers, Pharmaceutical Specialities (May and Baker) Limited, of Dagenham, Essex.

The low toxicity of Proseptasine, due to the introduction of the benzyl group into p-amino-benzenesulphonamide, has been demonstrated both in the laboratory and in clinical practice. This extra margin of safety has enabled Proseptasine to maintain its position as one of the best tolerated products for the treatment of hæmolytic streptococcal and other acute microbic infections.

Soluseptasine, for parenteral administration, is the only colourless sulphonamide available in concentrated aqueous solution. It is stated to be widely used in conjunction with Proseptasine for the treatment of erysipelas, puerperal sepsis, and septicæmia.

RUTONAL.

A copy of a new booklet on Rutonal has been sent to us by Pharmaceutical Specialities (May and Baker) Ltd., Dagenham, who are the makers of this drug.

Rutonal is stated to have the same general therapeutic uses as phenobarbital and is employed as an anti-convulsant, anti-spasmodic, and sedative in the treatment of epilepsy, petit mal, and other conditions in which central nervous system sedation is required. Compared with phenobarbital it has been found in clinical practice that, weight for weight, Rutonal has an activity in the order of about half that of phenobarbital, while it is less than
Notices

half as toxic. In the majority of patients Rutonal appears to be better tolerated than phenobarbital, being less liable to give rise to diurnal somnolence, lassitude, and mental depression.

“WELLCOME” BRAND BROMETHOL.

The issue of “Wellcome” Brand Bromethol, by Burroughs Wellcome and Co., is considered to provide the medical profession with a valuable basal anaesthetic of British manufacture. “Wellcome” Bromethol is stated to be a 66·66 per cent w/w solution of tribromethyl alcohol in amylene hydrate, and is administered per rectum in a 2½ per cent aqueous solution. The recommended dosage, calculated from the body-weight, produces a basal narcosis lasting about two hours.

Bromethol is used as a basal narcotic in general surgery, gynaecology, and obstetrics. It is well tolerated by children. It has also been used in the treatment of such conditions as chorea, angina, delirium, acute alcoholism, and the spasms of tetanus and of strychnine poisoning.

Before administration, it is desirable to use a test indicator, and “Wellcome” Congo Red Solution is issued for this purpose in bottles of 10 c.c. with pipette.

METHEDRINE.

Methedrine (d-methylisomyn), the issue of which is announced by Burroughs Wellcome and Co., is a recently discovered synthetic compound belonging to the sympathomimetic amine group. Given orally, it is stated to produce a prolonged rise of blood-pressure and stimulation of the central nervous system, especially of the cerebral cortex. Methedrine is considered to be indicated in the treatment of narcolepsy; it may also be used in certain depressive psychopathic conditions, as an analeptic in barbiturate poisoning, and as an antispasmodic in the X-ray visualization of the gastrointestinal tract.
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