

Marking of Patent Medicines

WHEN the question of withdrawing Medicine Stamp Duties was debated recently in the House of Commons, it was clear that there was a general feeling that proprietary medicines should not be freed from all restrictions, but should be subjected to effective control. Some of them are fraudulent, their advertisements encourage healthy people to think they are ill, and unhealthy people to postpone taking medical advice until it is too late, and some of them are poisons. The recent passing of effective legislation in the United States was largely due to the fact that seventy-three people were killed by an elixir containing diethylene glycol, just at the time when the matter was being debated in Congress. It would be unfortunate if another such accident were to occur in Great Britain before effective measures were introduced. Reforms of various kinds are being widely discussed. Prof. A. J. Clark, in a little tract published last year under the title "Patent Medicines" said: "The clearest line for the Government to take would be to say that it did not wish to tax any remedy that was beneficial to the health of the people, and wished to suppress all those that were useless and harmful." This would imply regulations such as those now enacted in the United States, where new remedies can only be sold when they have been officially approved. Lord Horder, in his speech in the House of Lords, stressed the harm that is done by misleading advertisements and recommended that measures for the control of quack medicines should form part of the campaign for national fitness.

Organization for War Emergency

EXTENSIVE preparations are in progress to meet a possible war emergency, not only in regard to defence, but also in other directions. On the medical side, the Ministry of Health has issued a "Statement Relating to the Emergency Hospital Organisation, First Aid Posts and Ambulances" (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 4d. net). This sets out, in the first place, emergency hospital requirements and organization, schemes for dealing with casualties and ambulance services. A summary is then given of supplies that are being provided. These include 200,000 beds with mattresses, 320,000 blankets, with a corresponding sufficiency of sheets, pillows, pillowslips and towels, and 226,000 stretchers with 400,000 coloured blankets. In addition, drugs and dressings to the value of £237,000 are on order, as well as surgical equipment and appliances sufficient for 75,000 casualty beds. On the food side, the Government has advised all who can to lay in a week's store of emergency food. In order to translate the Government's advice into practical terms, the British Medical Association has issued a booklet, which should be in the hands of every householder ("How to Stock your A.R.P. Larder". 2d.). This gives advice on the stores that should be purchased in order to provide a week's food supply for a family of five. The approximate cost of the articles suggested is given, together with hints for storage and use, a few sample recipes for one dinner, and the food values of the rations mentioned.

Nutrition and the Public Health

THE proceedings of one of the most useful conferences of recent years—the National Conference on the Wider Aspects of Nutrition organized by the British Medical Association and held in London at the end of April—have recently been published under the title "Nutrition and the Public Health" (B.M.A. House, W.C.1. Pp. 150. 2s. 6d. post paid). This conference, a report of which appeared in NATURE of May 6, p. 745, brought together representatives of medicine, agriculture, industry, administration and education to discuss in a comprehensive way the relation of human nutrition to the national welfare. It urged upon the Government the formulation of a long-term food policy in which the requirements of health, agriculture and industry should be considered in mutual relation, and recommended the inauguration of an educational campaign to make such a policy effective. The Conference ranged over a wide field, but as the published proceedings clearly indicate, there was the thread of the urgent need for an active, informed Government policy, which should take as its main objective the abolition of malnutrition, running through every discussion. The common benefit to the health of the individual citizen, to the prosperity of the home farmer (who would be largely responsible for the perishable 'protective' foods so essential to such a scheme) and to the efficiency of industry of such a policy forms the triple basis of what is undoubtedly one of the clearest and most influential appeals yet made for the early application of modern nutritional knowledge to national well-being.

Teachers on Modern Education

THE addresses delivered at sectional meetings arranged in connexion with the recent annual conference at Llandudno of the National Union of Teachers (Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, W.C.1) have been issued as a bound pamphlet. They include one by Mr. Kenneth M. Lindsay on the development of our educational system, in which he suggests that a commission is required on the whole financial relation between central and local government if the implications of the Spens Report are to be carried out. He also stresses the need for developing technical education, including the provision of improved premises and closer co-operation between technical education and industry and commerce. Emphasizing the importance of adult education, he pointed out the need for an effective survey of this field. Dr. C. F. Strong's address on the teaching of citizenship in central schools refers to the importance of including the civic aspects of science in a science syllabus, and urges the importance of history as laying the foundation for the teaching of citizenship and dispassionate thinking about political questions. Mr. E. R. J. Hussey's paper on aspects of education considered as a preparation for life in the modern world also emphasizes the importance of science, especially biology, from this point of view as well as the importance of character training and the formulation of ideals and a sense of values. Dr. G. H.

Green's address on the cinema and handicraft training directs attention to the need for investigation in the technique of using the film in schools.

The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

THE Hebrew University, on the heights of Scopus in Jerusalem, is developing fast and well. Begun in 1923 with a Chemistry Research Institute, it is to-day a centre of research and instruction, with faculties in the main branches of learning, an academic staff, including research workers, of 125, and a students roll, under- and post-graduate, of 850. More than 30 per cent are women. Hebrew is the language of instruction. In some Departments are men pre-eminent in their own academic field. Prof. Bernhard Zondek, professor of gynaecology, is in charge of the Hormone Research Laboratory which is now attached to the new Medical Centre opened in May of this year. Prof. S. Adler, head of the Microbiology Department, has already achieved an international reputation for his pioneer work on tropical diseases transmitted by parasites, and has undertaken several expeditions on behalf of the Royal Society. Prof. A. E. Fraenkel, formerly of the Universities of Marburg and Kiel, is one of the professors in the Mathematics Department, with mathematical philosophy and foundations of theory of sets and of analysis as his special field. The Archaeological Department, under Prof. L. A. Mayer, works in close association with the Department of Classics.

Two new faculties have been added this year, a medical faculty—it was formerly only a pre-faculty—and agriculture. The new professor of agriculture is Prof. E. Volcani, director of the Experimental Research Station at Rehovoth. The Hebrew University has played its part in enabling academic refugees to continue their work. Already nearly fifty exiled German scholars have been found positions at the University. These include Prof. H. Torczyner, the interpreter of the Lakhish Letters, Prof. J. Guttman, the authority on Jewish medieval philosophy, Prof. Martin Buber, the social philosopher, Prof. B. Zondek, the gynaecologist, Prof. Halberstadt, the radiologist, and the brothers Adelbert and Ladislaus Farkas, who are directing the Department of Physical Chemistry. The work already done gives promise that perhaps in the not-distant future Jerusalem will once again become the centre of learning in the Near and Middle East.

University and Professional Standards in the U.S.A.

THE formulation of standards in respect of such matters as entrance and graduation requirements, staff, equipment and financial resources, and the accrediting of educational institutions with reference to them, are undertaken in the United States by voluntary national and regional associations and by State universities and departments of education. Lists of accredited institutions are published from time to time and the situation is reviewed by the United States Office of Education once in every four years. Bulletin No. 16, "Accredited Higher Institutions, 1938" (Supt. of Documents, Washington,

D.C., pp. 212; 20 cents) brings together the latest available lists and standards of both voluntary and State accrediting agencies. The most noteworthy development of the past few years is the drawing up by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development of a statement of principles (reproduced in the Bulletin) for accrediting engineering curricula with the object of improving the status of the engineering profession. Other national associations have published lists of accredited professional and technical schools of law, theology, medicine, pharmacy, osteopathy, optometry, music, architecture, business, librarianship, journalism, forestry, social work and teaching. A National League of Nursing Education is conducting a survey with the intention of issuing a list of accredited schools on its completion. Of the university accrediting agencies, the chief and most exclusive is the Association of American Universities, which regards as the principal ground for the inclusion of a college in its approved list, evidence of success "in stimulating scholarly interest in its students and in preparing them for more advanced scholarly endeavour".

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

TWENTY-FIVE years have elapsed since Mr. Carnegie founded, with a capital of ten million dollars, his Trust "for the improvement of the well-being of the masses of the people of Great Britain and Ireland", and the Trustees preface their report for the year 1938 with a brief retrospect, in the course of which the allocation of their revenues since the Trust's foundation is summarized under the headings: libraries £1,393,000, physical welfare and playing fields and play centres £471,300, rural development and social service (including land settlement) £541,800, organs and other musical and dramatic activities £330,500, adult education £66,600, other activities £339,500. In pursuance of Mr. Carnegie's injunction to remember "that new needs are constantly arising as the masses advance" the Trustees aim at fulfilling the role of a pioneer body, financing no enterprise for more than a limited period, during which its sponsors are expected to contrive means for maintaining it, should its continuance appear expedient, without further recourse to the Trust. This principle plays a decisive part in the framing of the programmes of constructive experimental work which are drawn up by the Trustees once in five years and which pre-determine the bulk of the expenditure of each year's budget.

THE current programme covers activities classified as: (a) cultural and æsthetic developments, including libraries, museums, music and drama, adult education; (b) social services, in many of which the National Council of Social Service collaborates, including village halls, community councils, shows and exhibitions, university settlements, village colleges, women's institutes, Zoological Society's films, national parks, youth services, etc.; and (c) land settlement. One of the notable events of the year was the publication of a report in furtherance of the policy inaugurated ten years ago for developing the educational function of museums of the British