

photophobia, cerebral cry, and restlessness usually present in children suffering from the disease were absent. In two cases there were convulsions. In the first part of the acute stage the pulse was slow. The rate was usually from 60 to 70 until the last few days of the disease and occasionally was as low as 50. In the last two or three days of life the rate was from 130 to 150 and in a few cases even to 180. The temperature was unimportant, being usually from 100° to 101° and rarely over 102·5° F. In one case it was normal or sub-normal. The leucocyte count was lower than in acute cerebro-spinal meningitis. Of nine cases 23,000 were found in one, 17,400 in another, and in the remainder the number was below 12,000. Lumbar puncture was performed in eight cases. In all the fluid spurted out, showing that it was under pressure. The fluid was almost clear and contained a few flocculi. In one case the bacillus tuberculosis was found in it. The results were therefore very different from those obtained in acute cerebro-spinal meningitis, in which the fluid is purulent or semi-purulent and organisms are easily obtained on culture. Examination of the fundi yielded little of importance; in only one case was optic neuritis found. In three cases there was no paralysis but the patients were very ill and died soon after admission. In 12 cases paralysis was limited to one or more ocular muscles. Thus the rule was that paralysis was limited to the ocular muscles. In two cases there was slight facial paralysis in addition to strabismus. In one case there was extensive paralysis—left mydriasis and complete left hemiplegia. Other signs of cerebral disease, such as retraction of the head, Kernig's sign and opisthotonos (found only once), were less frequent and less marked than in cerebro-spinal meningitis. After the onset of acute symptoms three patients died in less than three weeks and several in less than one week. The clinical and post-mortem examination of the lungs corresponded; in no case was a lesion found sufficient to give rise to signs during life. In 16 of the 18 cases small areas of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis or caseous lymphatic glands were found. Acute miliary tuberculosis of the lungs was present in seven cases and general acute miliary tuberculosis in five. The spinal meninges were involved in eight cases.

THE SUNSHINE OF ENGLAND AND SWITZERLAND COMPARED.

IN THE LANCET of May 14th, p. 1370, the sunshine recorded during April in Switzerland and the south of this country was compared and it was seen that the advantage was altogether with the latter. The figures for May, on the contrary, show that during that month the conditions were reversed, the only British station to approach the majority of those in Switzerland being Jersey, a spot which represents Normandy far better than it does England. The Swiss values were probably higher than they appear in the table, for the two days for which the records are not to hand may have been almost cloudless. All the home totals were much below those of a normal May, especially on the coast of Sussex, while it is curious that London, which had an excess greater than the other places in April, should have maintained its relative superiority by having a comparatively small deficit during May. The disproportion in the records from Switzerland and our own coasts is, of course, greater than it appears, as at this time of the year the sun is above the horizon a very appreciably longer time with us than is the case about 250 miles further south. Even in the more northern parts of these islands, where the duration of daylight is greater than on our south coasts, the sunshine was less than that registered during April. Aberdeen had 145 hours, Harrogate 128, Nottingham 136, and Birmingham 133. The most sunny of the Swiss resorts was again that situated near the borders of Italy, Lugano,

and this was followed at a respectful distance by Berne, the elevated Davos, and Zürich. The station with the greatest altitude (Santis) had the least sunshine, but even that was equal or superior to any of our own resorts excepting Jersey and Torquay.

May Sunshine in the South of England and in Switzerland.

Stations.	No. of hours.	Difference from average.	Stations, with altitude.	No. of hours.*
Aberystwyth	172	?	Geneva (405 metres)	182
Scilly Isles	163	- 75	Lausanne (563 „)	199
Plymouth	178	- 40	Montreux (553 „)	186
Jersey	193	- 57	Berne (572 „)	208
Torquay	183	- 47	Basle (278 „)	186
Bournemouth	172	?	Zürich (493 „)	204
Hastings	158	- 77	Santis (2500 „)	178
Margate	143	- 52	Davos (1560 „)	205
Bath	142	?	Lugano (275 „)	239
London (Westminster)	130	- 34		

* These totals are not quite complete, the returns for the 6th and 21st not being available.

CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAYS FUND.

The Earl of Erroll and Lord Avebury have just issued a letter of appeal on behalf of that large and important section of our population, the 800,000 children under 14 years of age who fill the elementary schools of London and West Ham, the majority of whom do not leave London for a holiday in the country or leave it for a single day's excursion only. It is the object of the Children's Country Holidays Fund to place within the reach of children of either sex and every creed whose parents are willing to assist the opportunity of obtaining the permanent physical and moral development which is fostered by residence amid new surrounding and by a glimpse of nature and of country ways. The fund has, except in a few cases, adopted the plan of boarding out London children with country cottagers. In 1903 over 34,000 children were sent to country friends in this manner, the cost per head being about 14s., including railway fares. But the work is always growing and larger expenses can only be met by more liberal help. The fund is doing more and more each year to provide for a very real and urgent need and it is for this reason that the Earl of Erroll and Lord Avebury once more appeal to the public to assist. Cheques should be made payable to the Treasurer, 18, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

BLOOD CHANGES PRODUCED BY ETHER ANÆSTHESIA IN MAN AND THE LOWER ANIMALS.

IT has been known for some time that the inhalation of ether and consequent entry of ether into the circulating blood are followed by blood changes chiefly of the nature of hæmolysis. A careful paper by Dr. J. M. Anders and Dr. L. N. Boston of Philadelphia, which space does not permit us to print in full, details experiments bearing on this point that have been performed upon animals and observations made upon the human subject with regard to the same question. The subjects of investigation were in the case of human beings patients undergoing comparatively slight operations or else persons inhaling ether purely for the sake of the investigation. Earlier research has shown that the fall in hæmoglobin in ether anæsthesia reaches its lowest level 24 hours after the termination of the anæsthetic state, one half of the fall taking place during the first hour after anæsthesia and the other half during the next 23 hours. Dr. Anders and Dr. Boston find similarly that hæmoglobin is reduced in