

Abstracts

- (3) The applicator covers all one side of the larynx.
- (4) There is minimal upset of the patient. His treatment is complete in one afternoon, and is not followed by a skin reaction.
- (5) The voice becomes serviceable.

The work is being carried out with the help and advice of Dr. Ralston Paterson, Director of the Holt Radium Institute.

REFERENCE

- ¹ WATSON, *B.J.R.*, 1941, xiv, 366.

ABSTRACTS

MISCELLANEOUS.

Chronic Nasal Diphtheria Carriers Cure with Sulphanilamide.

JOAN M. BOISSARD and R. M. FRY. (*Lancet*, i, 610.)

The authors have analysed results of swabs from 388 diphtheria cases: 117 showed double infection with *C. diphtheriae* and hæmolytic streptococci in the nose, and the average stay in hospital was 87·5 days, more than twice the average for all cases without such an infection. Sulphanilamide powder was used intranasally on twenty-six children with heavy double nasal infection who had been positive for periods ranging from four to twenty-three weeks. In twenty-four the nasal infection abruptly and permanently ended by the first eight-day course of treatment. In the remaining two a second course succeeded. In addition, two nasal carriers with a double infection of eleven and five months' duration were treated outside hospital and cured. It is concluded that the persistence of *C. diphtheriae* in the nose depends mainly on the associated streptococcal infection, which is cleared with sulphanilamide powder. Some of the results suggest that sulphanilamide also has a direct action on *C. diphtheriae*.

MACLEOD YEARSLEY.

Basal Narcosis for Tonsil Operations on Children. J. GERRIE and

J. ROSS MACKENZIE. (*Lancet*, 1942, i, 759.)

The authors rightly urge that children undergoing tonsillectomy should not be treated as out-patients because of the emotional as well as physical dangers. Supervision for at least twenty-four hours is essential. Basal narcosis with an elixir of pentobarbital soluble was found safe and reliable and more convenient than paraldehyde and should be used as a routine. Over 600 cases have been thus treated successfully with benefit to patient, surgeon and anaesthetist, while parents appreciate the absence of post-operative mental upset.

MACLEOD YEARSLEY.