

caused them to bubble is the question. Readers in the search for information will read with interest the following in reference to baths at Manchester, especially those referring to the "swirling" baths. It is not claimed the water in the baths has medicinal properties but, somehow, there is virtue in it. I give somewhat lengthy extracts from a contribution by a military correspondent in the Manchester Guardian:

In the soldiers' convalescent camp at Manchester there is a place which has come to be known as the Pool of Bethesda because of the cures effected there. The lame, the halt, the blind, the deaf, the dumb, and those suffering from all manner of nervous disorders congregate at this pool. The water used does not even contain any medicinal properties. It comes from the Thirlmere or other of Manchester's reservoirs, and its curative effect is secured by maintaining it at a constant temperate heat, which varies according to the disability it is hoped to relieve and finally permanently to cure.

This new treatment for our soldiers, which when associated with massage and movements has been found to give good results in limbs disabled by gunshot wounds and in regard to serious nerve troubles, was introduced to this country from France. Early in January, 1915, a committee of experts was appointed to advise the army medical authorities in the treatment of wounded and invalid soldiers by baths and associated methods at the British health resorts. A representative of the committee, visiting Paris, found in operation there a hydrological method which claimed to have effected some remarkable cures.

The Manchester installation is designed to treat the large variety of cases of disability which the war has produced. These include neurasthenia, the result of sleepless nights and arduous days, shock in all its forms—tremulous limbs, stammering speech, persistent nightmares, disorders of sensation, paralysis,—disordered heart action and heart strain, rheumatism and debility following typhoid, dysentery, and malaria; feet and legs bruised by bullets and pitted by shrapnel; arms and hands with torn nerves and tender scars. The "pool" is used for the treatment of men suffering from shock and heart trouble, and the "whirl" (eau courante) bath is used for frost-bitten and trench feet, painful and contracted scars, and certain forms of paralysis and neuritis following injury, whilst the douche baths are valued for the tonic effect they produce. Local hot baths, arranged in temperature from 50 to 80 degrees (C.) and of approximately fifteen minutes' duration, have been found to give relief in cases of complicated fracture by promoting absorption of inflammatory products, and electric radiation baths greatly assist the curative process.

There are approximately 4000 convalescent soldiers at Heaton Park, and on an average 170 men pass through the hydrotherapeutic department daily. In the "Bethesda Pool" 12 men are accommodated at one time. The water in this bath is kept at a temperature of 92 degrees (Fahr.). The patients stay in the water for about one hour, and after the body has been wiped dry each man reposes on a couch in the rest-room adjoining, and there enjoys the sedative effect of his immersion. He is then con-

vayed by ambulance to his hut, where he takes further rest. The idea of the pool bath (this and the eau courante bath were the first of their kind established by the war office in this country) is that immersion in a large volume of water kept at a temperature below body heat will have a decidedly soothing effect on the nervous system and restore the heart to its normal action.

The curative effect of this treatment did not, in the early stage of the practice, reach expectations. Some men who had undergone the treatment said that their nerves were steadier, and that for some hours after the bath they had lost the earlier symptoms of fatigue, but that gradually their troubles returned. The ailments of other soldiers seemed to be untouched. Latterly, however, much better results have been obtained. The physical weakness has in many cases disappeared, and progressive exercises to help on the "strengthening-up" process could be undertaken without delay. But experience has proved that if the best results are to be expected the treatment must be given in the early stages of the disorder. Excellent results are reported in cases of disordered action of the heart, especially the cases where the heart is beating very rapidly, and some of the patients have been discharged to enter upon a course of graduated physical exercises.

The "whirlpool" bath has given the best results. Not less than 90 per cent of the cases discharged after three weeks' or a month's course have been fit to begin at once their physical training. It is believed that this "whirl bath" has a special action due to the movement of the water, and the hydro-massage treatment which follows supplements its curative action.

* * *

The clamor as to the excessive price of coal has largely been given up. Probably because people began to realize that high as the price of coal is in the province things might be very much worse. Read this and be grateful:

Weather conditions, intensifying difficulties brought about by the labor shortage, caused a coal famine in parts of London, more particularly in the south, where people could be seen lined up in queues at the coal depots, with handcarts, perambulators, wheelbarrows, baths, and other receptacles for carrying away coal. In one suburb a silk-hatted city man could be seen staggering along with a sack of coal on his shoulders, and well-dressed women drove up in motor-cars to get their supply. Need of food has driven the wild red deer in Somerset from the hills to the lower lands, foxes have been seen in the streets of villages and towns, and seagulls have come foraging in the gardens of suburban homes in London.

SCOTTISH MINERS' WAGES.

Lord Strathclyde, the arbiter in the Scottish miners' claim for an advance in wages, has decided that no alteration can be made at this time beyond the figure fixed by him last September. The men are at present receiving 10s. per day, and they asked for another 1s a day.