

"MIRACLE" DRUG

Remarkable Powers of Penicillin

"MOUSE TEST"

ONE of the dramatic secrets behind the discovery of the remarkable powers of penicillin, the "miracle" drug, was disclosed in London last night by Professor H. W. Florey, Professor of Pathology at Oxford University, who played a leading part in the development of the drug for medical purposes. Surrounded by test tubes, beakers, and flasks containing liquids of various colours, he explained at the Royal Institution how it was decided to apply what is known as the "mouse test" to the new drug.

"A number of mice," he said, "were inoculated with germs which would certainly kill them if no successful treatment was given. They were divided into two groups, one of which had been treated with penicillin and the other not. We sat up through the night injecting penicillin every three hours into the treated group, and I must confess that it was one of the more exciting moments when I found in the morning that all the untreated mice were dead and all the penicillin-treated ones were alive. A man is roughly 3000 times the weight of a mouse, so you can well imagine that the next step to produce enough to use on a man took months of labour on the scale on which we were then working."

"NOT A CURE-ALL"

Penicillin, unlike most antiseptics, did not kill germs outright, but merely stopped their growth. This enabled the white blood cells to do their work of killing the disease while the bacteria were held in a state of suspended animation. Penicillin could be injected into the veins or muscles or it might be applied locally. Organisms sensitive to the drug included those which caused pneumonia, anthrax, tetanus, diphtheria, gangrene, child-bed fever, and meningitis. But it was of no use in cholera, plague, and tubercle diseases. It was not a cure-all. A great technical complication in its manufacture was that it was destroyed by certain air bacteria. It was still so rare that patients were not given it until the last moment.

"It is a sort of corpse-raising drug at present. This is entirely conditioned by supplies. What one looks forward to is its use at the earliest possible moment with the idea of saving or preventing the destruction of tissues, and so saving much disability, prolonged illness, and even life.

"It is probably along the lines of prevention that it will be most profitable to use the material for those wounded in battle."

SCOTTISH INDUSTRY

Protests Against Closing of War Factories

PROTESTS against the closing down of Scottish war factories and concern about the country's industrial future were expressed last night at a meeting in St Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, under the auspices of the Scottish Convention. Lord Provost James Welsh presided.

A resolution was approved asking the Secretary of State for Scotland, to whom tribute was paid for his efforts on behalf of his country, to inform the Government that the Scottish people demanded adequate allocation of war industries to Scotland and greatly increased provision for post-war development of Scottish industry.

Lord Provost Welsh said the industrial future of Scotland was such that all Scottish people, no matter what their Party sympathies might be, should come together and see that the Government faced its responsibilities to Scotland.

Lady Louise Glen-Coats said the closing of the Scottish factories was not so terrible in itself, apart from those concerned, but it was symptomatic of what had been happening, and what would happen if the Scottish people did not take a firm stand now and demand from the Government a square deal.

Mr David Kirkwood, M.P., declared that the time had arrived when they should have a General Election—not only nationally but locally throughout Scotland. He had found that local administrators had been so long in the saddle that they had become divorced from the common people. He protested against the multiplication of factories in England to be staffed by Scotswomen, and said they could just as well be built in Scotland.

FORMER M.P. WEDS

MR E. ROSSLYN MITCHELL, former Socialist M.P. for Paisley, who created a political sensation in 1924 by defeating Lord Oxford and Asquith, was married at a Glasgow register office yesterday to Miss Marguerite Antoinette Ferguson. Mr Rosslyn Mitchell is 64 and his bride 24.