still she could not hold her water when standing, and a third operation to diminish the calibre of the urethra gave no improvement. At the fourth operation the gracilis was incised between the two areas of nerve-supply and its proximal portion was wrapped round the urethra, sutured back on to itself, and fastened by first intention and the patient could walk about the ward after the third week without any dribbling of urine. The muscle tone was always good and was strengthened by exercises and by electrical treatment.

The bladder remained under complete control. The results of other methods of operation, as reviewed by Dr. Dening, have not been very encouraging. He states that among the 30 cases recorded by Nove-Jusserand and Gotte only three patients were continent after operation, and there was no appreciable improvement in any of Steiner's series. The region of the perineum provides no muscles with normal sphincter action that can be transplanted into the neck of the bladder, nor are there any straight muscles that can be arranged around the urethra, as the rectus is arranged around a colostomy opening. The gracilis has also been used successfully, both by Stetinger and Rubsamen, and Rubsamen and Bryosowsky have used the levator ani with some degree of success. One case has been recorded by Dr. Dening of the successful transplantation of the adductor and biceps muscles. Perhaps Dr. Dening's paper will give more satisfactory results. The gracilis seems to be peculiarly suitable for transplanting; its easy accessibility, its double nerve-supply, and the fact that it can be arranged around the urethra, as the gracilis, gave no improvement. The urethra, sutured back on to itself, and fastened by first intention and the patient could walk about the ward after the third week without any dribbling of urine. The muscle tone was always good and was strengthened by exercises and by electrical treat-

post-vaccinal nervous disease.

The international conference on small-pox, arranged by the Health Committee of the League of Nations at The Hague at the turn of the present year, decided to give close attention to the affections of the central nervous system reported in some countries to have followed vaccination. Dr. Levaditi had presented to the Paris Academy of Medicine some months earlier an account by three Dutch observers of 34 cases of post-vaccinal encephalitis (14 of them fatal) which occurred in Holland over a period of 18 months. The Departmental Committee on Vaccination, appointed by the Ministry of Health, now invites the assistance of all members of the medical profession who are in active practice in this country in the elaboration of this plan. The Committee has decided to make a special study during the next 12 months of all cases in which the occurrence of acute disease of the central nervous system (such as meningitis of any kind or origin, encephalitis, polio-encephalitis) has been "post-vaccinal"—using this term in the sense that the first symptoms have occurred within four weeks of vaccination. The object of the Committee is to obtain a collection of data sufficient to enable them to determine whether there are any features which distinguish cases of acute nervous disease which happen to be "post-vaccinal" (as defined above) from those which are not. The evidence so far available points to certain cases as having been due to encephalitis virus carried by the patient, the effect of vaccination being to activate a virus already present. The request which is therefore made to all practising members of the medical profession is that when called in to any case of disease of the central nervous system they will not fail to inform the Committee as soon as possible of every case in which they have ascertained that vaccination has preceded the onset of the symptoms within a period of four weeks. The notification should be sent to the Secretary of the Departmental Committee on Vaccination (Dr. J. R. Hutchinson), Ministry of Health, Whitehall, London, S.W. 1.

mule-spinners' disease.

Epithelioma associated with mule-spinning in cotton mills has only been recognised generally within a very recent period, although in The Lancet of Dec. 2nd, 1911, Dr. John Morley, the demonstrator of anatomy at Manchester, drew attention to the frequency with which a certain class of operatives suffered in this way. The etiology of the condition was established by the work of Mr. S. R. Wilson, who in the course of an investigation into epitheliomas of various varieties collected records of the Manchester Royal Infirmary and the Christie Cancer Hospital which had occurred during the ten years previous to the publication of Mr. Morley's notes. The importance of the matter is now widely recognised, and in March of last year Sir William Joyynson-Hicks appointed a committee of inquiry, with Sir Gerald Bellhouse as chairman, the other members being Prof. A. H. Gibson, Mr. F. Holroyd, Sir E. G. Strahan, Thomas Legge, Dr. Harold Leitch, and Lieut.-Col. A. B. Smallman, Dr. S. A. Henry acting as secretary. The report of this committee has now been published and a leaflet has been issued from the Home Office simultaneously which sets out the facts for the consideration of all workers in cotton mills. The report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Evidence as to the Occurrence of Epitheliomatous Ulcera-

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1 Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider Evidence as to the Occurrence of Epitheliomatous Ulceration among Mule-spinners. H.M. Stationery Office. 1s.