

known, and this is obviously an extensive field for research. Larval Thalassinids form a large part of the plankton, especially inshore. "In one quarter-hour haul at Broken Bay in April 1935, there were hundreds of thousands of larvæ in different stages." Gurney, in the "Discovery" Reports (1938), has shown that there are many more Thalassinid larvæ than known adults (especially belonging to the Axiid-Callianassid group). Here again in Sydney Harbour the adults are not known, except in a very few instances. The larvæ occur at certain stated times. It will be interesting to hear of more researches on these forms—a difficult subject, as these Thalassinids live in very inaccessible places, and there must be an enormous number of undescribed species. The present work deals mainly with invertebrates, but there is a small section on fish eggs. Further work on these and on other groups here not fully dealt with are subjects for the future.

War-Time Medicinal Formulæ

THE direction of the policy which is being adopted in the compilation of war-time formulæ for medicinal preparations is indicated by the nature of the recommendations recently made by the British Pharmaceutical Codex Revision Committee. It may well be that there is little need to replace all those drugs now unobtainable by alternative substances. On the other hand, it is very desirable that authoritative guidance should be given to prescribers as to substitutes for at least some of the scarce or unobtainable drugs, and also as to the best combinations in which to present them. This duty falls upon several bodies recognized as being properly constituted for the purpose, and one such is the Codex Revision Committee.

The recommendations made by this body are not restricted to the replacement of scarce substances by those which are more freely available. They cover a wider field. Thus it is proposed to authorize the use of tap water in place of distilled water except in injections and in preparations for which the pharmacist may consider distilled water more suitable. To the patient who invariably uses tap water to dilute his medicines, where dilution is directed, there appears to be nothing remarkable in this recommendation and there would seem to be little reason why it should not continue to be applied in peacetime. With regard to alcohol the Committee, following the advice of the Medical Research Council, that, in order to observe economy in the use of alcohol, many tinctures should be replaced by concentrated preparations, agrees that concentrated liquid extracts should be employed instead of tinctures and has decided to draw up a list of liquid extracts which might be used for this purpose. Other recommendations have their origin in the scarcity of tragacanth, squill, liquid paraffin, olive oil and almond oil.

Food Growing and Utilization

It is fully recognized that the amateur gardeners and allotment holders of Great Britain are making a vital contribution to the war effort. Maximum crops

need to be raised and any wastage through faulty storage or cooking must be avoided. The "Penguin Book of Food Growing, Storing and Cooking", by Mr. F. W. P. Carter, provides much practical information in a simple manner on these subjects (Penguin Special, S.90. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, Ltd. 6d.). Crops are dealt with alphabetically which makes reference simple. The method of cultivation, recommended varieties, quantity of seed required, likely pests and their control, storage and where possible also cooking methods are described for all the more commonly grown vegetables. Good general information is also given regarding the preparation of the soil. The booklet concludes with simple suggestions for garden work each month and a detailed cropping plan for a period of three years on a typical allotment.

The correct utilization of food is dealt with by Mr. Frank Wokes in another Penguin Special, "Food: the Deciding Factor" (S. 87. 6d.). Much information on food values and diet is compressed into a small space. The energy and body-building values of different types of food are explained, and diets suggested which make for properly balanced meals, rationing being taken into account. A considerable part of the booklet is devoted to the question of vitamins, the quantities required and the foods which supply them. Interesting tables are given in the appendix showing the body-building and energy values, mineral and vitamin contents of a large number of generally consumed articles of food, including cereals, dairy produce, fish, fruit, meat and nuts.

Institute of Physics: Industrial Radiology Group

FOR some considerable time, physicists engaged in the various branches of industrial radiology have expressed a wish for some means whereby they could come together for the mutual discussion of their particular problems. Accordingly, the London and Home Counties' Branch of the Institute of Physics arranged a Conference on Industrial Radiography in January 1941 (see NATURE, February 8, p. 183). As a result of this Conference it was decided to ask the Board of the Institute of Physics to approve the formation of a Radiography Group. The Board's approval having been obtained, the inaugural meeting of the Group was held on May 20, at the Social Centre of Messrs. Kodak, Ltd., Harrow, about seventy people attending—some coming from as far afield as Leven, Motherwell, Sheffield and Derby. The title "Industrial Radiology Group" being approved by those present, Dr. L. Mullins, of the Research Laboratory of Messrs. Kodak, Ltd., was appointed honorary secretary, and the following committee was elected: Drs. W. Betteridge, D. W. Davison, and H. Lowery, Messrs. A. N. Gilchrist, W. L. Harper, H. P. Rooksby, H. S. Tasker, D. E. Thomas, and E. J. Tunnicliffe.

So constituted, the present committee is representative of those concerned with the industrial applications of radiography and X-ray crystallography and of those engaged in the manufacture of industrial X-ray apparatus and X-ray films. In addition, the British Institute of Radiology and the