

THE BRITISH MANUFACTURE OF INSULIN.

THE following communication has been received from Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome and Co. :—

Insulin is a pancreatic active principle discovered by workers in the University of Toronto and used in the treatment of *diabetes mellitus*. The British patent rights are vested in the Medical Research Council, who have issued licences for its manufacture on condition that each batch must, before issue, be biologically tested under the supervision of the Council. It is under this licence and condition that "Wellcome" Brand Insulin is manufactured and issued by Burroughs Wellcome and Co.

"Wellcome" Brand Insulin is a sterile, watery solution of a material obtained from fresh pancreas by a complicated fractionation. It is issued in rubber-capped phials containing 100 units in five cubic centimetres of solution. The dose is indicated in units and not volume of solution, the average dose being ten units injected subcutaneously twice daily. The present price per dose of ten units is 2s. 6d.

Each unit injected is calculated to enable the patient to take at the ensuing meal one to four grammes of additional carbohydrate or its equivalent without excreting sugar.

With each phial of "Wellcome" Brand Insulin, Burroughs Wellcome and Co. issue a pamphlet, prepared under the direction of the Medical Research Council, and containing authoritative particulars as to the mode of administration, type of case for which Insulin is suitable, dosage, etc. Copies of this pamphlet will be sent to any medical practitioner who applies to Burroughs Wellcome and Co.

Owing to the present scarcity of supplies, the Medical Research Council point out that treatment should, for a time at least, be confined to severe cases of *diabetes mellitus*.

A special warning is issued that there is as yet no clear evidence of a *curative* action. Insulin enables the patient to metabolize a sufficient quantity of carbohydrate, but there is no ground for assuming that it can bring about a resumption of the normal function.

For this reason its use is not to be recommended, except as an emergency matter, without a clear prospect of continuing the administration for an indefinitely long period.

An emphatic warning is issued that Insulin is of service only in true *diabetes mellitus* and is definitely dangerous in the so-called renal glycosuria or *diabetes innocens*. The British Research Council state that administration by the alimentary canal has no demonstrable effect and that preparations of the pancreas recommended for administration by the mouth, whatever their effects may be, have not the action of Insulin.