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GUARDING LONDON'S HEALTH.

This is the fascinating record by our camera of the important work undertaken by the London County Council to guard the health of the country.

~~The scene opens with a general view of the laboratory.~~

At present they are dealing with a throat swab just taken from a child suffering from a sore throat. As there are only a few germs on the swab, it is necessary to culture them in order to separate them and have enough for the various necessary tests.

This is done by spreading material from the swab on a culture medium in a glass dish.

The technician then places the dish in the incubator overnight which keeping the germs at body temperature produces a visible growth or colony from each by the next morning.

From this culture, a colony is picked off for examination under the microscope. Before the germs can be seen, they must be coloured with a purple stain. These particular germs called streptococci which produce sore throat, tonsillitis, scarlet fever etc. - consist of small spherical germs each $1/25.000$ of an inch; in diameter, and grow in chains.

After this, further tests are made to determine the exact species. Many different kinds of culture media have to be used for the numerous bacteria which cause disease.

The new modern method is to have these in screw-capped wool bottles instead of the old test tubes and flasks with cotton ~~wool~~ stoppers.

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~~Many types of culture media are used.~~ ^{of these culture media} The basis consists of fresh English beef which is digested in a steam jacketed pan.

It is run out and filtered. This constitutes nutrient broth, which is made into a solid jelly by means of a preparation of seaweed called agar.

The various types of culture media are filled into bottles of different sizes, the largest holding half a pint. This is undoubtedly the Scotsman's dream of a double

After the bottles are filled, they are sterilised by steam, packed in boxes and distributed over the various laboratories throughout the country.

~~This system of manufacture, use of bottles and distribution of culture medias has been devised by the Director of Pathological Services of the L.C.C. Major J.E. McCartney. R.A.M.C. and is a unique part of the social service of the London County Council.~~