

In consequence of the crowded state of Haslar Naval Hospital, orders have been given that cases of influenza and ordinary sickness occurring on board ships at Portsmouth are to be treated on board, instead of being sent to the hospital. At the monthly survey of patients at the hospital, fifty men of the Navy and marines were invalided from the service.

The new extensive balconies and premises for the open-air treatment of consumptives, which have been built at the Hahnemann Convalescent Home, Bournemouth, at a cost of about £1,000, were opened yesterday by the Dowager Countess Cairns. A distinguished company was present, including Lady Willis, Lady de Tabley, Sir Matthew and Lady Dodsworth, General Blair Reid, and others. At the annual meeting of the governors of the home (which receives patients from all parts of the country), Earl Dysart was elected president.

As far as it is practicable the open air treatment of tuberculosis has been carried out for some years past at the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor. The value of such treatment was recognised thirty years ago by the founder of the hospital—Dr. A. H. Hassall—and its evolution has been the careful study of the administration in each successive addition to the number of the institution's buildings. The matter was dealt with at length in the last annual report of the board of management, from which the following facts may be extracted:—

The pavilions are built in succession, and will shortly number eleven. They are separated by an average distance of 18ft., permitting a free current of air between them. They are so constructed that in each a straight corridor is carried across on floor from east to west, ending in large windows each equal to the sectional area, while two other corridors almost from north to south, giving free ventilation in every direction. The whole of the patients' sitting rooms and bedrooms face south, and open on verandahs wide enough for their chairs and couches being brought into them through the folding French windows; the doors opposite open on to the corridors. Between some of the blocks shelters, in line with the verandahs, have been constructed, and all the blocks will shortly be so connected as to further facilitate the outdoor life of the patients. Numerous sheltered seats are available in the undulating wooded grounds sloping between the hospital and the sea, nearly twenty acres in extent, and the nurses have standing instructions that the patients are to be at all times in the verandahs or open air according to the weather. At night, and when the rooms are occupied, by means of elaborate steam-driven machinery, a constant current of air, fresh from the outside, is drawn through each apartment, supplying 5,000 cubic feet per hour per patient. This air is tempered in cold weather by passing through a steam-heated coil opposite external aperture. This current is kept up advisedly even when the windows are open, in order that there be no stagnant air and the extraction of the exhaust air be maintained. In each room is displayed a printed card explaining in simple language the nature of pulmonary consumption, the conditions under which it is spread by the infectious element in the expectoration, and the precautions therefore necessary to be taken by patients in connection with its disposal.

## The Protest.

THE report of the ladies' visiting committee of the Highworth and Swindon Guardians has drawn attention to the state of the isolation ward where some 20 children were confined owing to the prevalence of ringworm. Nurse Wilkins stated that she found nine of the children all in one bed. There were some placed at the top, some at the bottom, and the others were arranged round the sides. An inquiry will probably be held.

THE inquest held on poor little Sarah Jane Ward, a child inmate of the Bromsgrove Workhouse, who died from the effects of burns on the previous Thursday, has brought to light the manner in which the children in this institution are neglected. It appeared the only person directly responsible for the care of the children was the assistant matron, who had also to superintend the work of the laundry and wash-house, where work was done from nine to 12.15 in the morning, and from one o'clock till five in the afternoon. The children were also unattended in the dormitories in the night, the only officer sleeping near the female dormitory being the cook, and the male dormitory the labour master. In the daytime the children were at school from nine till 12.30, and from 1.30 till 4.30. In the master's opinion the assistant matron had too much to do.—The Coroner said it was not for him to recommend anything, but it seemed that there was practically no one to look after the children, and for a large part of the day they were unattended. Here was a family of 39, under the charge of one person, and even that officer engaged in laundry and other work for several hours of the day. Then, again, he would specially remind the jury that the children were practically left unattended at night.—After consultation in private the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," but added a rider that they were of opinion that a nurse should be engaged to look after the children, that the fireguard should be moved further from the fire, and that the opening in the guard should be locked.

A MIDDLE-AGED woman "dressed as a nurse" was recently arrested at Hatfield upon the charge of obtaining money by false pretences from Miss Lucy Sidebottom, sister of Colonel Sidebottom, M.P. Miss Sidebottom gave evidence before the Hyde County magistrates that the prisoner obtained 10s. from her by representing that it was for patients at Charlesworth. The prisoner, who refused to give any account of herself beyond giving the name of Ann Johnson, was remanded for further enquiries.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)