

At the last meeting of the Holbeach Board of Guardians, on Thursday, the Chairman read letters from the medical officer of health, the assistant nurse, and the porter, resigning their appointments, and it was also announced that the post of cook was vacant and a successor could not be obtained. Dr. R. Russell Harper, the medical officer of health in his letter said:—"Although it is with a certain amount of regret that I thus sever a connection which has existed for upwards of 25 years, yet I will not expose myself any longer to the insult and calumny to which I have been exposed on more than one occasion when present at your Board." Dr. Harper has, by 12 votes to 5, been asked to reconsider his decision.

The Countess of Dundonald last week opened the first completed portion of the new Royal Alexandra Hospital at Rhyll. The work is being carried out in three sections, at a total cost of £40,000.

A second sanatorium for consumption has been built for women by Mr. William Quarrier at the Bridge of Weir. The building is the gift of an anonymous donor, who, visiting No. 1 sanatorium, straightway offered to build another. It is estimated that the cost will be £11,000. The new building has been happily named the "Door of Hope." It will accommodate forty patients. Mr. Quarrier still wants £35,000 so that he can carry out his scheme of six sanatoria—three for women and three for men.

The Executive Committee formed for the purpose of raising a Memorial Fund to commemorate the late Lieutenant Tait has issued a statement reporting that £1,600 has been raised. £120 has been devoted to furnishing a bed in the Scottish Hospital in South Africa, and expenses amount to £50. The executive recommends that the balance be disposed of as follows: £1,000 in equipping a bed in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and £400 in endowing a bed in St. Andrew's Cottage Hospital.

Paisley Town Council has formally opened a model byre for the purpose of obtaining a milk supply free from tubercule taint for the patients in the infectious hospital. The byre is conducted by a local dairyman. The Corporation are to get the cows officially examined regularly under tuberculine test. All cows showing tubercule taint are slaughtered, the Corporation recouping the dairyman for loss sustained. By this method the Corporation intend securing an absolutely pure milk supply for the hospital patients.

An extraordinary poisoning case has recently taken place at St. Ouen in France. Three years ago M. Guerin, a veterinary surgeon of that town, purchased some tapestries with which he decorated his drawing-room and bed-room. Shortly afterwards he was taken seriously ill with symptoms of poisoning, which, though he consulted doctor after doctor, grew worse. Recently, a medical friend who called upon him detected a slight smell of arsenic, and on submitting a portion of the tapestry to chemical analysis found that it was strongly impregnated with this poison. On the removal of the tapestry the patient was speedily restored to health.

Professional Review.

"THE HUMAN FRAME AND THE LAWS OF HEALTH."

A useful little handbook, by Drs. Rebmann and Seiler, translated from the German by F. W. Keeble, M.A., is published under this title as one of the Temple Primers, by Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co., Alpine House, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.

THE STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BODY.

It is divided into two main sections—the Structures and Activities of the Body and the Laws of Health. The first section sub-divides itself naturally under the headings of the skeleton, under which are considered the structure of bones and cartilages, sutures and joints, and a general survey including that of the vertebral column, the skull, the thorax, and the limbs. The clearness of the text is increased by the illustrations which, throughout the book are good. Following on the skeleton comes a chapter on the muscles, in which the various kinds are described, and their voluntary, involuntary, and reflex movements, in fact all that a beginner needs to know about them. The chapter on the Nervous System deals with the brain, the spinal cord, the nerves, and the sense organs. This includes a description of the afferent and efferent impulses, of the formation of the cerebrum and cerebellum, of the grey and the white matter of which it is composed, and of its functions. In the same way the cerebral, spinal, and sympathetic nerves are clearly and concisely described, and the connection of the brain with the outer world by means of the sense organs. Each of these organs, the eye, the ear, the nose, the tongue, and the organs of touch receive their share of attention.

A chapter is devoted to metabolism, a term which is so often a puzzle to beginners. Under this heading are included a description of the circulation of the blood, and of the blood itself, of the heart, the blood-vessels, and the lymph. Next comes a description of the organs of respiration, and lastly an explanation of the process of nutrition. Thus we see the whole course of metabolism, the destruction of the substance of the body by its activities, the formation of the organs which supply it with fresh material for its support, and the constructive changes which take place, by means of which this new material is prepared. Subsequent chapters deal with the organs of excretion the kidneys and skin, with the temperature of the body, and with the construction of the larynx.

THE LAWS OF HEALTH.

The rest of the book is devoted to the consideration of the laws of health. In connection with these are discussed the necessaries of life, including pure air, certain conditions of temperature and atmospheric pressure, sunlight, water, a suitable soil, food, and the means of rendering waste products harmless. The hygienic rules to be observed under special circumstances such as in schools, in connection with trades, more especially those which are dangerous to health, the injuries caused by the inhalation of dust, and by the neighbourhood of factories receives attention. The question of infection and the means which should be taken to combat it are also dealt with. The last chapter is devoted to the care of the body. We can cordially recommend this valuable little text book to nurses as well as to those who hope to enter the nursing profession at some future date.

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