

pressing question than that the poor shop girls should be well fed, and the basis of the whole matter was that the women themselves should be paid a proper wage so that they could look after themselves.

THE VALUE OF SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.

A conference of municipal representatives was presided over by Alderman A. McDougall, Vice-Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Manchester Corporation, who, in his presidential address, alluded to the increased confidence felt by the public in the value of sanitary precautions and regulations. There was, he said, strong encouragement in the earnest and combined efforts on the part of the sanitary authorities to obtain additional powers to simplify and extend their activities. This was especially the case in dealing with insanitary dwellings and the provision of houses for the working classes. He characterised the Public Health Acts in regard to sewers and drains as very unsatisfactory, as by the various decisions in the law courts a very considerable cost was thrown upon the rates which ought in equity to be borne by property holders. This was a matter which required the urgent and immediate attention of all municipal authorities.

THE MORTALITY OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

Mrs. F. J. Greenwood (Sheffield) contributed an important paper on "The Mortality of Infants and Children under Five Years of Age." She had not, she said, restricted herself to infantile mortality, because she wished to draw attention to the large number of young children who, having successfully braved the perils of the first year of life, were swept away before they reached the age of five years. She had limited herself to the conditions found in Sheffield, from whence her experience of the matter was derived. Nearly 50 per cent. of the deaths which took place annually occurred among children under five years of age; about 25 per cent. of the total number being those of children under one year. The proportion of deaths of infants under one year to 1,000 children born varied greatly in different towns and districts. Only three towns in England had a higher infantile mortality than Sheffield, where it was 201 per 1,000, viz., Salford 204, Preston 216, and Burnley 226. When they considered the advances made in all directions during the last sixty years, it was surely remarkable that out of every 1,000 infants born, fewer reached the age of one year than formerly. Anything that could be done to lower that appallingly high death-rate among infants and young children could not fail to diminish the amount of sickness and improve the physical condition of those who survive. Unwholesome houses, overcrowding, bad drainage, and pollution of the soil and air by accumulations of filth in the midst of dwelling-houses affected the general death-rate, and could not fail to act still more injuriously on the health of infants and young children. Mrs. Greenwood showed the habits and methods of life of the people as contributing causes, and urged a better method of educating the children of the artisan classes.

CANCER AND CONSUMPTION.

Mrs. J. T. Foard, a member of the Board of Management of the Southport Infirmary, dealt with hygiene in houses. Houses should, she said, face south or west, and be built, if possible, on gravel soil, as clay predisposed to cancer. In dealing with the prevention of consumption, she asserted that great

danger exists in lodging-house beds, and in the half-washed forks of large hydros. Every person in a household who was out of health should have his or her own drinking vessels and forks, which should be washed separately in running water.

"THE MAN VERSUS THE MICROBE."

Sir William J. Collins, M.D., late Chairman of the London County Council, gave the concluding address of the Congress, on "The Man versus the Microbe."

He protested against surrounding the science of health with a mystic sacerdotalism, and remarked that since legislation had come to concern itself with the health of nations as much as with the wealth of nations the medical man should take his place among the councils of the nation and discuss public health questions on the public platform.

We were now living under the dominion of the bacillus. That blessed word met us at every turn and shadowed us in every department of public and private life.

The germ was too much with us, and perhaps we sometimes lost sight of the man amid the luxuriant and magnificent flora of the bacteriological laboratory.

But the soil had to be studied as well as the seed. Healthy blood was fatal to disease germs. Predisposition was a potent factor too little considered.

The lecturer suggested that bacteriologists stood too close to their special study to see it in the right perspective, and said that methods of stamping out disease, though apparently successful in the laboratory, had failed in practical application. In their proper zeal against bacilli some reformers were in danger of underrating the potency of filthy conditions and removable extrinsic conditions in disease production. The true sanitarian should be willing to listen to every suggestion, but determined to judge for himself.

Useful Inventions.

LINETTA COLLARS AND CUFFS.

We commend to the notice of our readers the new "Linetta" collars and cuffs supplied by Messrs. Thomas Wallis and Co., Holborn, E.C. Substitutes for linen articles of this kind have in the past been too often unsatisfactory, but those at present under consideration have only to be seen to be appreciated. In texture, colour, and variety of design they are all that can be desired. The collars are made in four shapes—the "Improved Squire," the "Pretoria," the "Ascot" and the "Ambulance"; while the cuffs are known as the "Osborne," the "Grace," and the "Ambulance." While suitable and convenient for all nurses, and indeed for all who wear collars and cuffs at all, they would be specially useful to nurses at infectious cases, and for travellers, as they can be simply discarded when soiled, and replaced by new ones at a less cost than that ordinarily paid for dressing linen ones. The cost of the "Pretoria" and "Ascot" collars is 5d. a dozen, and the "Ambulance" and "Squire" collars 6½d. a dozen, while all the cuffs are 7d. per dozen.

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