

### Annotations.

#### PURE WATER IN WAR.

It is announced that the problem of providing troops with pure water has been attacked with so much energy in Germany that the German Army has now adopted for its soldiers a water-purifying apparatus. The apparatus is in the shape of a portable engine, and in operation it has a capacity of fifteen gallons an hour. In order to put it to the severest test that could be devised, the apparatus was tried on water that had been highly infected with the germs of cholera and typhoid. In the purified water the germs had disappeared. It is an accepted fact in warfare that disease is a foe to be feared quite as much as the enemy, and that many diseases are largely water-borne. It is therefore of primary importance that the water supply should be above suspicion.

#### WOMEN AND EDUCATION.

The resolution proposed by Miss Louisa Stevenson last year at the meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, held at Edinburgh, "That without the firm foundation of the Parliamentary Franchise for women there is no permanence for any advance gained by them," has received sad illustration in the passage of the London Education Act, which, as it now stands, altogether removes women from the share in the control of education which they previously possessed, and in connection with which they have done most valuable public work. The control of the education of the Metropolis is now entrusted to the London County Council, from which body, to our shame be it said, women are excluded. As the County Council deals with such matters as the public health, the housing of the poor, the supervision of midwives and of baby farms, and with many other questions in which the advice and assistance of women would be of the utmost value, the injustice of their exclusion must recoil prejudicially upon the community. But no more flagrant wrong has ever been done to women, and to those whose interests they especially safeguard—the infants, the girls, the large staff of women teachers—than to deprive them of seats on the education authority as the direct representatives of the electors. The work done by women on the London School Board will stand for all time as splendid

evidence of what they can do when power and authority are entrusted to them. We must never rest content until once more women are placed on the education authority, not as co-opted members, but in the position to which they have proved their right, as the duly elected representatives of the people.

#### HEALTH LECTURES.

The syllabus of Lectures on Health, drawn up by Dr. Robert J. Collie, Medical Superintendent of Hygiene, First Aid, and Home Nursing to the School Board for London, for the guidance of the medical practitioners who will give health lectures in connection with the evening continuation schools during the coming winter session, should be useful both in systematising the work of the lecturers, and ensuring a certain degree of uniformity in the instruction given, and also because the lectures are arranged on very practical lines, and are illustrated by experiments emphasising and elucidating the teaching given. If, therefore, they are given to responsive audiences they should bear good fruit in disseminating a knowledge of the laws of health, and, consequently, in raising the physical condition of the people. The syllabus is arranged to cover fourteen lectures, the first ten being arranged for mixed audiences, and the remaining four for women only. They include such subjects as the furnishing and cleaning of houses, the effect of dusty, dirty houses on health and morals, the value of sunlight, the disposal of refuse, the danger of defective drainage, unventilated bedrooms, the prevention of consumption, the care of the skin, the importance of exercises and games from a physical and moral standpoint for brain-workers, personal hygiene, food, water, the spread of infectious diseases, the prevention of communicable skin disease in school life, and other practical topics.

The lectures for women comprise instruction on the care of infancy and of childhood, on the causes of ill-health in women, and on the general principles of cooking, on the object in cooking food, the most economical preparation of different foods, how to preserve food, the importance of pasteurising milk, and so forth. The points upon which instruction is to be given are details which everyone should know. Unfortunately, there is abundant proof that the general ignorance upon hygienic questions is colossal, and a scheme which endeavours to lessen this ignorance is doing good service to the community.

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