

The importance of preventive medicine and nursing in teaching the elements of the laws of health received confirmation recently at a meeting held in Belfast to protest against the establishment of consumptive shelters in the Ormeau Park. Professor Lindsay, who was unable to be present, wrote:— "You ask me to express an opinion on the proposal of the City Council to provide shelters for consumptive patients in the Ormeau Park. I have no doubt this proposal has been well intended, but it seems to me open to serious objections from several points of view. From the point of view of the public, I think exception may be reasonably taken to congregating consumptive patients in a place of public resort and recreation, especially in a place which is to some extent a playground for children. Such a proceeding would not be free from risk, and is, besides, objectionable on other obvious grounds. From the point of view of the consumptive patients themselves, the proposal does not impress me as a happy one. The Ormeau Park is ill-adapted for the purpose in view. It is too near the river, and too much exposed to damp air and exhalations. The next serious objection to the proposal of the City Council is the fact that the step in contemplation will do no real good of any importance, will in fact be futile, and will serve to distract the attention of sanitary reformers from measures of real utility. Consumption can be attacked successfully only by improving the houses of the working classes, by abolishing sunless and ill-ventilated courts and alleys, by teaching the people the supreme importance of cleanliness, fresh air, and wholesome food; by preventing overcrowding; by regulating unwholesome trades; and by attention to hygiene and sanitation. That the adoption of such measures would speedily result in a marked diminution of consumption in our midst I entertain no doubt whatever. I should say, further, that no measures for the prevention of consumption can be expected to attain their full measure of success which do not afford means for separating consumptive patients from healthy persons. The danger of infection, which is in my opinion slight in large, airy, and well-ventilated houses, is very serious in small, overcrowded, ill-ventilated, and sometimes uncleanly, dwellings. The provision of municipal sanatoria for consumptive patients of the working classes should be undertaken without further delay."

It will be noted that, consumption being a communicable disease, there is danger to the community at large in overcrowded and insanitary dwellings, as well as in uncleanness. Therefore it becomes the duty of the State, in the public interest, to teach and enforce the practice of the laws of health, and no better health missionaries can be found than nurses who have also had a course of sanitary training. It is a branch of work to which nurses in increasing numbers might well direct their attention.

## The Hospital World.

### THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, RICHMOND.

The Royal Hospital, Richmond, was originally the residence of Lady Shaftesbury, but for the last thirty-six years it has done good service in its present capacity. It has already been enlarged to meet the growing needs of the surrounding population, an additional wing, known as the Cambridge Wing, having been opened by the late Duchess of Teck. Now once more the hospital, which contains sixty beds, is to have another addition. The out-patient department, which has done duty ever since the hospital was opened, and which is now quite inadequate for the purpose, is to be accommodated in a new wing in the Shaftesbury Road, in which other important additions will also be located.

Towards the erection of the new wing a donation of £1,000 has been given by Mr. J. B. Hilditch, of Asgill House, Richmond. Asgill House is an old mansion on the bank of the Thames, and has many historical associations and fine art treasures, while the grounds are some of the most beautiful in the Thames Valley. Mr. Hilditch is a magistrate and has been Mayor of Richmond, and has already done much for the borough.

The chief feature of the new wing will be the large hall where the out-patients will wait. This hall is to have an open timbered roof, with enriched plaster panels between roof-trusses, and a large glazed lantern light.

There will also be consulting and examination rooms, special rooms for eye, ear, and throat diseases, and an X-ray room, as well as a dispensary and waiting rooms. The new buildings will be connected with the present hospital by means of a covered corridor. The floors are to be of polished wood, and the walls and chimney-pieces of glazed ceramic ware, and all the most modern hygienic principles are being employed in the design of the building. The new wing cannot fail to contribute greatly to the convenience and comfort of the out-patients.

There is at present accommodation for sixty in-patients, and, under the able superintendence of the Matron, Miss Rachel Foley, both the nursing of the sick and the education and training of the nursing staff are in excellent hands.

In honour of the visit of the King and Queen to the London Hospital, it has been decided to appoint special King's Governors, who are to have the privilege of nominating a second governor, the qualification for which will be a donation of £50. During the past quarter 2,881 in-patients were discharged from the hospital, while the number treated in the wards daily was 687. Out-patients numbered 22,490, and minor casualties 28,000. There were 296 deaths.

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