

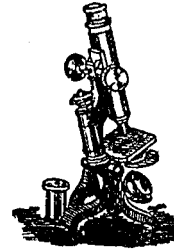
and musical drill, physical exercises, story-telling, clay modelling, dancing, Nature-study, swimming, and sand-digging for everybody. Discipline was easily maintained, and some exceptionally good work was done. Mr. Graham Wallas, in moving the adoption of the report, expressed the hope that the vacation school would mark the beginning of a new social experiment in London.

#### DECENCY v. DECORUM.

We have received a copy of the *Owl* of September 25th containing a reproduction of the now famous photograph of the nursing staff and others in the costumes worn at the recent fancy dress ball at the New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town. In our opinion the photograph cannot rightfully be characterised as "indecent." It is true two of the nurses appear in costumes necessitating a somewhat liberal display of very straight and shapely legs, but we are not of those who see anything indecent in this portion of a woman's anatomy. It is presumable that had woman been intended to appear always on a pedestal, her Creator would, in the first instance, have deprived her of these necessary appendages. But decency is one thing, decorum is another, and we have no hesitation in saying that the photograph is unquestionably indecorous. It will be remembered that much indignation, we think justly, was excited early in the present year, when, at a ball, three society ladies, who had shortly before received the Royal Red Cross for their services in the South African War—not one of whom was in her *première jeunesse*, and one at least of whom was a grandmother—appeared in male costume as "a Spanish cavalier, in doublet and hose, fiercely up-twisted moustaches and wide sombrero hat," "Bonnie Prince Charlie in a kilt," and "Joan of Arc." There is nothing indecent in any of these costumes, but there was a strong feeling that it was highly indecorous in ladies holding the honourable Order of the Red Cross to appear in public in such attire. As the account of this ball was widely circulated, it is probable that the nurses of the New Somerset Hospital considered what was suitable in women of the Order of the Royal Red Cross was equally permissible for them. The middle classes, however, have so far held to standards of conduct not always considered necessary in higher circles, and the nursing profession should certainly be the last to lower ideals which have their foundation in innate refinement of mind and womanly reticence.

## Medical Matters.

### SANATORIA IN GERMANY.



A report of the work done in Germany by popular sanatoria for the cure of consumption amply bears out the King's definition of the twofold service rendered by these institutions. Sanatoria in Germany are in every way more "popular" than they are in England. There are, for example, more of them. The seventy-two German sanatoria receive 30,000 patients, and the average duration of the treatment given to patients is three months. Many of the sanatoria are supported by insurance companies, and the benefit societies are finding out that it is better to send a phthisical workman in the early stages of his disease to a sanatorium where he may recover than to continue to pay him sick pay indefinitely. Complete figures for the whole number of the German sanatoria are not available; but in one institution, out of 424 patients who had symptoms of early pulmonary tuberculosis, 94 per cent. were able to do some kind of work at the end of six months; and of all the patients received 80 per cent. were able to do work at the end of two years. The first necessity is that the patient should go to the sanatorium at an early stage of his disease. But what the report specially insists on is that, however short the time in which patients are treated in the sanatorium, they gain a knowledge, which is of the greatest service to themselves and to their fellow-creatures, of the sanitary precautions for checking the progress of the disease and for preventing the spread of its infection among others.

### SHELLFISH AND ENTERIC FEVER.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for the City of London for the five weeks ending October 17th contains remarks on the subject of shellfish and typhoid. It appears that on October 7th a case of enteric fever was notified from Paddington as having in all probability been caused by mussels sold in Billingsgate Market. On inquiry, it was found that these mussels were obtained from a dealer at Leigh-on-Sea, from layings in Hadleigh Bay, which creek has for some time been known to be contaminated to a serious extent by sewage. That this was so was recently shown by Professor Klein, whose analyses demonstrated that 50 per cent. of the samples taken therefrom were polluted. Samples of

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