

the expenditure of hospital funds in this direction is justified. But, as we believe we were the first to point out in connection with the diversion of funds at the Middlesex Hospital to support a medical school which was only able to attract fourteen new students at the beginning of the school year, the system is an exceedingly costly one. By organisation a more uniform and less expensive system can be evolved, and we welcome the scheme which has been drawn up by the Medical Faculty of London University for the incorporation of part of the work of these separate schools or colleges into an "Institute of Preliminary Medical Studies."

The complete cost of building and endowing four great departments—viz., Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology—would be about £400,000, but a beginning could be made with a less amount. The opportunity is too good to let slip, and we hope soon to hear of the inauguration of such a course.

#### SCHOOLS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

Mrs. Humphry Ward, who has interested herself keenly in the establishment of special schools for crippled children, made some sensible remarks at the meeting of the Manchester and Salford Cripples' Aid Federation at its recent meeting at the Town Hall, Manchester. She said the only weak place in the armour of Manchester to a visitor from London seemed to be that they had no special schools under the control of the public authority for crippled children; yet it was clear from the preliminary investigations which had been conducted that there were in Manchester a great number of crippled children. That preliminary work had no doubt cleared the ground to a great extent; yet she could not see why Manchester, generally so much to the fore in all education work, had not followed the lead of London, Leeds, Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham, and Glasgow, by taking advantage of the Act of 1899. It must be that the education authority was not convinced of the necessity of these schools and wished to make use of other towns' experience before deciding on the question. The cripple schools in London had succeeded beyond the hopes of those who were responsible for the establishment of them. The need of such institutions in London had been shown to exist beyond what they had known or expected. There were now ten schools for cripples under the London Board, and two more would be opened immediately after Christmas, accommodation being provided for 570 children.

## Medical Matters.

### ALIMENTARY ALBUMINURIA.



Alluding to an article in a foreign exchange, Dr. H. W. Syers says in the *Medical Times*:—Drs. Ascoli and Bonfanti report a series of investigations on the blood and urine of healthy and nephritic individuals to determine whether their previous conclusion that egg albumen in cases of alimentary and other albuminuria can be identified in the body fluids by specific precipitin reactions, also holds good for other forms of albumin. Inasmuch as test-tube digestion has been found to exercise an inhibitory effect on the formation of recognisable precipitins it was necessary first to determine whether the natural processes had the same action. Observations showed that peptic digestion in the living body has but slight effect on the precipitable bodies in albumins, so that their absorption is not interfered with to an appreciable degree. The albumin chosen for experiment was beef albumin, and the blood and urine of sixteen persons were examined after they had taken 100 grams of roasted beef the first thing in the morning. Two sorts of immune sera were used, both obtained from rabbits, in the one case after treatment with human serum, in the other after treatment with beef serum. The results of the study of the blood of the subjects after the ingestion of the beef may be grouped in two classes. In some the serum did not previously react to beef immune serum; in these, during digestion it may either remain inactive, or it may respond to the precipitins. In others, the serum already was precipitable with beef immune serum; in these digestion caused the reaction either to become more active, remain unchanged, or even disappear entirely. The study of the urine showed that in healthy persons, even when kept in bed, the urine, which previously did not respond either to human immune serum or to beef immune serum, may, after ingestion of beef, respond to both, and sometimes albumin may even be recognised by chemical reagents (Jolle's). Frequently the urine of nephritics also becomes precipitable by beef immune serum after a beef meal. In some instances the urine which, while fasting, reacted positively both with beef immune serum and with Jolle's

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