

Annotations.

FREE STUDENTSHIPS FOR MIDWIVES.

The Glamorgan Education Committee have recommended the County Council to accept an offer made by Cardiff University College in relation to the training of midwives. The offer was, that in the event of an annual grant of £100 from the Council towards the expenses incurred by the College in arranging a course for the training of midwives, the College was prepared to place twenty-one free studentships, admitting persons to the course without payment of fees, at its disposal. The advantage of the control of the education of midwives by a central authority is obvious, because a guarantee is thus afforded, in the event of public money being expended in such scholarships, that the course of education given will fulfil the requirements laid down by the Central Midwives' Board.

PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

The Board of Education have sent an important letter to the authorities of training-schools for teachers, stating that they desire to draw the attention of the authorities of training colleges to the recent report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the model course of physical exercises prepared by that Committee, and enclosing a copy.

The Board say further that they have addressed a circular to all local education authorities established under the Education Act, 1902, but they desire in the present memorandum to emphasise the importance of physical exercises in connection with the training of those who are destined to become teachers in public elementary schools. They consider that it is most important that a systematic study and practice of the subject should be an essential element in training college courses, in order that students who pass out of the training colleges during or after July, 1906, may be well qualified to give instruction in physical training, on the lines of the syllabus, to scholars in public elementary schools.

The Board desire to impress on the authorities of training colleges the necessity of bringing before the students not merely the importance of physical exercises in themselves, but also their bearing on the question of health. The students will in due time be called on to study the physical capacities of the children in their schools in relation to these exercises, with a view to the exclusion of those who, from insufficient nourishment,

imperfect development, or other causes, are evidently unfit for the course.

It is, therefore, necessary that the students should have some knowledge of the elementary laws of health, and some practical acquaintance with the ordinary signs which indicate physical weakness or over-fatigue.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY

At the International Congress of Dermatology, which has been in session at Berlin, several important papers have been read. Professor Neisser, of Breslau University, has been collecting evidence on the subject of leprosy since 1897, and is of opinion that this bears out the view accepted at that Congress that leprosy is contagious. Only, however, to a limited extent, and by long-continued contact with an infected person. It is almost exclusively confined to the poorer classes, for the reason that several often sleep in the same bed. It is on the increase only in countries where such patients are in no way under control, such as Spain, Turkey, China, and Siam, and is disappearing in Germany and Norway, where the State insists on isolation. It is not necessary, in the Professor's opinion, to prohibit the marriage of leprosy subjects, but he thinks the authorities should have a legal right to separate the children of such marriages from their parents, and also that there should be an international agreement under which uniform measures might be taken for the notification and isolation of infected and suspicious cases.

His Excellency Professor von Bergmann stated his emphatic belief in the curability of cutaneous cancer by surgical methods. "The surgeon is certain," he said, "that he can heal every simple cutaneous cancer with the knife," whereas only some cases can be cured by the light treatment. If there are serious complications, the surgeon is not so sure, but in such cases the Roentgen rays are no use at all as a cure. At the same time, in cases where operation is useless, application of Roentgen or radium rays will give some relief, and may prolong life for some years. In Professor Bergmann's clinic 171 patients were operated on for cancer between 1894 and 1901. In only 15.8 of the cases treated for cancer did the disease reappear, proving, the Professor contended, that the best permanent results were obtained by early extirpation with the knife.

The next meeting of the International Congress of Dermatology is to take place at New York in 1907.

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