

The Institute of Hygiene.

The Institute of Hygiene at 34, Devonshire Street, London, which was opened by Sir Joseph Fayrer on Friday last, has been organised for the purpose of disseminating knowledge in connection with personal and domestic hygiene. One of the first undertakings inaugurated with this object has been the arrangement of a permanent exhibition of hygienic products and appliances, and of articles of importance connected with personal and domestic hygiene, which will be open free daily throughout the year. A Medical Council has been formed which will be the governing body of the institution, while there is a small executive committee and a resident Medical Director, who will be present to explain the composition, character and properties of articles exhibited. The intrinsic value of every exhibit is investigated by an examining board, and only exhibits of a high standard of merit are admitted. A certificate is granted after an article has been examined and passed, as evidence of its purity and merit. The certificate holds good for a year, but is renewable at its expiration.

In connection with the educational work of the Institute, a scheme is being arranged for the organisation of local centres, with officially recognised and competent lecturers on all the more important matters relating to personal and domestic hygiene. At the close of a general course it is proposed that the student shall be able after examination to gain a certificate from the Institute. It is also proposed to establish a journal of a popular character to treat on all subjects in which the Institute is interested.

On Friday, September 30th, the well-wishers of the Institute assembled for its formal opening, when Dr. Thresh, D.P.H., &c., in a few introductory words, showed how during the last half-century the death-rate of the country had been substantially reduced by improved hygienic conditions and a better knowledge of the laws of health, but that still the mortality is appalling, and one-third of the children born die before they attain five years of age.

Sir Joseph Fayrer, whose name has for many years been associated with preventive medicine, and who met with a cordial reception, said that nothing had been more remarkable in the Victorian age than the increase of sanitary knowledge and the consequent improvement of the general conditions of life in areas where people congregate. The ordinary death-rate amongst British soldiers, for instance, had fallen from 60 to 10 per thousand. It was only just in this connection to acknowledge the national debt to Netley Hospital, where, since the Crimean War, Parkes, Notter, and others had taught the science on which health depends; further, the knowledge of practical hygiene, as taught at Netley and elsewhere, had extended to the civil population through such agencies as the Parkes Museum and the Sanitary Institute. Sir Joseph expressed the hope that the success of the Institute would be such as to lead to the formation of similar institutions, until at last the knowledge of hygiene covered the world as the waters cover the sea. If people could be taught to believe in the value of pure water and air, good food, and temperate habits, infectious diseases, which are largely caused by uncleanness, would be greatly diminished. At present, preventable disease skilled at least 140,000 persons per annum. Seventy-eight

million days' labour were also annually lost in the United Kingdom.

Preventive medicine, the speaker said, had been preached from the days of Moses, but there had been little recognition of its value till recently. It was only right to acknowledge the public debt to the Local Government Board and its Medical Officers of Health; the Board had spent £9,000,000 on sanitary work.

Sir Joseph then expressed the hope that all present would give the Institute their cordial support, and with this aspiration declared it open. Subsequently, in acknowledging a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Eyre, and seconded by Dr. Goodall, he expressed the belief that hygiene was a more important branch of medicine than even the cure of disease, inasmuch as to prevent is always better than to cure.

The visitors then adjourned to discuss the tea and other good things hospitably provided for them, and to inspect the interesting exhibits in the well-filled cases lining the walls. It is satisfactory to learn that the value of the exhibition is so apparent that it is already almost self-supporting. Amongst the exhibitors, who are too numerous to mention in detail, we noticed Henri Nestlé, whose Swiss and Viking Milk are so widely known; Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, Ltd., whose cocoa and other preparations are of such a high standard of excellence; Messrs. Keen, Robinson, and Co., Ltd., whose patent groats and barley have the wide reputation they assuredly deserve; Newton Chambers and Co., Ltd., the makers of Izal, a non-poisonous disinfectant with great germicidal powers; Southall Bros. and Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, whose Accouchement Sets are widely appreciated; Isaac Chorlton and Co., Manchester, who are large makers of surgical and other bedsteads; Leslies, Ltd., of Plaster fame; and many other well-known firms. Nurses interested in hygienic matters will doubtless find their way to the Institute of Hygiene to inspect and profit by this interesting exhibit.

Professional Review.

OUTLINES OF ROUTINE IN DISTRICT NURSING.

A handbook drawn up for the use of district probationers by Miss M. Loane, Superintendent of District Nurses, Portsmouth, will be found very useful to those nurses who are engaged in this branch of work. It is especially intended for the use of those who have received two years' training in "an approved hospital," but who have always held a subordinate position and are more or less at a loss when called on to take the sole responsibility in the absence of the medical attendant, and to work under totally different conditions from those to which they have hitherto been accustomed. An increasing number of operations are now performed in the patients' own homes, and Miss Loane finds that, unless nurses have received special instruction, as a rule they find it difficult to adapt whatever experience they may have had in a hospital theatre to the exigencies of district work. The book therefore gives full directions for the preparation of a cottage room for a major operation.

In district as in other nursing work it has been found desirable to achieve uniformity of nursing

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