

Annotations.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF EPILEPTICS.

An excellent demonstration of the ability of epileptics to perform good work and to become self-supporting members of the community under certain conditions was given at the opening of the Passmore Edwards House by Lady Rothschild at Chalfont St. Giles last week.

The house is the administrative building of the colony, established ten years ago by the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. E. Montefiore Micholls, said that practically all the work of rearing the hall in which they were assembled had been done by the colonists. When we consider the miserable lives of epileptics who live the ordinary home life, and the constant anxiety that they are to their relatives, the beneficence of such colonies as that now under consideration must be appreciated. The funds for the erection of the newly-added administrative block have been given by Mr. Passmore Edwards. The residents live in six homes, and there are many more applicants for admission than can be received until more funds are at the disposal of the Committee.

THE TRAINING OF LONDON CHILDREN.

It is very satisfactory to learn from a report prepared under the direction of the late School Board for London, and issued by the London County Council, that "the physical and moral condition of the people is now incomparably superior to that which existed thirty years ago, and that juvenile crime and depravity have correspondingly diminished." When the Board began its work an almost hopeless state of things prevailed in the slums of the East-end and of other parts of London. Nevertheless, the Board states that unfortunately for many years to come there will only be too much scope for industrial schools, "not only among people where, as the result of overcrowding and general unfavourable conditions of life, evil and corrupt habits are introduced and fostered, but also among the offspring of the vicious, the neglectful, the drunken, and the immoral parents, who are a social canker, and who constitute a residuum whose numbers it seems almost hopeless materially to reduce."

The London County Council has nine industrial schools under its own control in London and the neighbourhood, and has children placed in sixty-

four industrial schools throughout the country, thirty-eight for boys and twenty-six for girls. The chief industries taught are tailoring, shoemaking, and breadmaking, both because these trades are useful to the children and also are of pecuniary advantage to the schools, as the labour is thus used in feeding and clothing the inmates.

When the children leave school very great care is taken in finding them suitable employment. They are only placed out after the most careful inquiry, and the superintendents often travel long distances in order to make the personal acquaintance of an employer and to see the conditions under which the child will live. The schools probably afford the best chance of becoming useful members of the community which can be offered to the class from which these waifs are drawn.

SANITATION IN THE TROPICS

One of the most interesting developments of modern science is that dealing with sanitation in the tropics and the consequent decrease of tropical diseases. Sir Charles Bruce, addressing the London School of Tropical Medicine recently, ably summed up the results of the study of tropical medicine during the last few years by pointing out that, commencing with the work of Sir Patrick Manson and Major Ross, the members of the medical profession in tropical colonies were no longer called upon to fight a vague generalisation styled climate, but specific infections by discovered agencies, working in accordance with ascertained natural laws. The London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine might be described as the intelligence department of the army of medicine in the tropics. On the work of the department the welfare of our tropical possessions and protectorates depended. In the case of malaria the militant officers seemed to be equipped at all points, as the intelligence department had devised an anti-malarial system of sanitation which experiments had found to be adequate to reduce the agent of infection. With regard to other tropical diseases, including yellow fever, much further research was necessary, and he hoped the coming session would be not less fruitful of good work than former ones.

Nurses by an intelligent comprehension of the principles underlying their work help to reduce the terrible mortality which caused many tropical countries to be regarded formerly as the white man's grave.

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