

of the Home Office, urged that there should be some means of training the benevolent woman. She was a great asset in the national health question, but she lacked knowledge.

Sir Lauder Brunton has also recently addressed the National Federation of Head Teachers' Associations at Cambridge on the proposed National League for Physical Education and Improvement, when he said that the subject was of vital importance. Upon it depended the welfare if not the very existence of our country and Empire, and there was no class able to do so much to forward the movement as school teachers. In their hands lay the mental, physical and moral training of the coming generation. The potent factors for evil were overcrowding, alcoholism, and insufficient and imperfect food. It was almost hopeless to deal with the grown-up people in these matters, and hope was centred on the next generation. The remedies, therefore, were largely in the hands of the teachers who could instruct children, while at school, in the benefits of fresh air, the necessity for ventilation and the advantages of exercise.

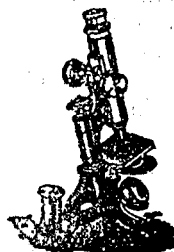
In relation to alcohol, if its use could be brought within proper limits, or even abolished, the benefit to the nation would be incalculable. It was to the teacher we must look for the instruction of children as to the evil effects of alcohol on mind, body, and estate, as was already done in Switzerland and France.

Referring to National Defence, the speaker said the Boer War had shown what could be done in the way of fighting by boys of fourteen accustomed to handle a rifle. There was no reason why our own lads should not do just as well. But physical training involved waste of muscle and nerve on the part of children, and if they were not sufficiently fed even for the due performance of their ordinary tasks it was manifest that they could not undertake physical training in addition; thus, a most serious point, that of the feeding of school children was raised. Where possible, undoubtedly, parents should be made to pay, and if they did not do so the authorities should come down upon them, as they already did for remaining away from school. Where the parents really could not afford to pay, it would be cheapest in the end to feed the children at the public expense.

Slowly light is being thrown upon these national problems. It must be obvious to all that it is a cruel procedure to demand mental effort from children whose bodies are starved.

## Medical Matters.

### BURNING FOOT, OR ERYTHROMELALGIA.



Dr. P. N. Gebhard defines this disease as one of the plantar nervous or arterial supply, occurring in Eastern natives accustomed to working barefooted on roads and plantations. It commences with a "pins and needles" sensation affecting the soles of the feet, and progressing to an acute burning sensation, which becomes so severe as to prevent walking, and necessitates the administration of narcotics to produce sleep. In the histories of the six cases upon which his paper is based he notes that although a previous history of malaria could usually be obtained, there was no such history occurring during the progress of the erythromelalgia. This suggested the possibility of the disease being a neuritis of malarial origin. The blood supply to the nerves may have been cut off by a deposit of malarial pigment. The duration of the disease at the time of presentation was from three days to three months, from which a chronic course may be argued. It also seems that the affection is not any form of acute local disease occurring in a given place after a fixed incubation period. Length of residence in a particular country seems to have no influence on the production of the disease. In two out of the six cases sugar was found in the urine. Usually there is a variable amount of swelling, and occasionally slight sclerodactylia. The author is inclined to the view that the disease does not exist so much in the congestive as in the cellulitic form, although it may commence with the congestive form. Aside from a possible malarial origin, it may be due to arteriole fatigue. Paralysis of the sympathetic, excitation of the vaso-motor nerve fibres, and general toxic vaso-motor derangements do not seem to be factors in the disease. A varied treatment was employed. Narcotics and sedatives give only temporary relief; various lubricants and ointments, general tonics, with or without strychnine, failed to give any relief. In two cases relief was experienced by immersing the feet in hot salt water.

### THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF HEART FAILURE IN PNEUMONIA.

According to Dr. S. Solis-Cohen, there are three principal and many secondary causes of

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)