

Annotations.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

In connection with the work of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine it is the desire of Sir Alfred Jones to establish a large hospital for malarial cases in Liverpool. He considers that, as more people suffering from malaria are landed at that port than at any other, they should have a thoroughly equipped institution under the direction of men who have had tropical experience.

This would be a good work. The nursing of malaria has been but little understood in this country so far, and the hospital would provide both good care for patients, and also afford opportunity for experience for nurses proceeding to malarious countries.

MUNICIPAL MILK DEPOTS AND MILK STERILISATION.

An interesting discussion on the above subject was opened by Dr. G. F. McCleary, medical officer for Battersea, at a meeting convened by the Royal Sanitary Institute, and held at the Parkes' Museum, Margaret Street, W. Dr. McCleary said that there was no necessary connection between depots and sterilisation, as there was no reason to limit the operations of a municipal milk depot to a specialised and costly method of supply. It was, however, the case that specially-prepared infants' milk was the only kind supplied by the ten municipalities in Great Britain that had established milk depots. The object of the municipal infants' milk depot was to reduce the heavy infantile mortality resulting from improper infant feeding. Mothers' milk was immeasurably the best food for babies, and an infant should receive that sustenance alone for the first nine months of its life. Unfortunately, the natural food was not always available, and an increasing number of children must either be fed artificially or not at all.

The lecturer expressed the opinion that municipal milk should not be sterilised milk, but clean milk produced under the strictest aseptic precautions from cows owned by the municipality. Such milk should be supplied primarily to nursing mothers, children over nine months old, and infants under nine months for whom breast-feeding was impracticable.

There is no more important question for the nation than the proper feeding of infants. On it largely depends not only the rate of mortality, but the question of whether the succeeding

generation shall be healthy and able to render efficient service to the State, or weakly and a burden upon it. Too much attention cannot be given to this subject.

A HOSPITAL KINDERGARTEN.

A hospital kindergarten has been opened at Bellevue Hospital, New York, by the Board of Education for the convalescent children there. Every afternoon aches are forgotten, and fretfulness is chased away by kindergarten occupations and games adapted to the condition of the children. The Bellevue kindergarten is the first one of this sort to be supported by the Board of Education, but there have been two or three experiments in other hospitals under the auspices of the New York City Kindergarten Association, and the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society. In London, at the National Orthopædic Hospital, where the children frequently remain under treatment for a considerable period, but, in the majority of instances are not bodily ill, systematic instruction has for some time been given by a specially appointed teacher.

A RATIONAL TREATMENT.

The present age is one of severe mental stress for all those who take an active share in the world's work, and it is not surprising that nervous and even mental breakdown is often the result of overstrain in highly-strung natures. The remedy for such overstrain is rest, but a symptom of the malady is that such sufferers give themselves no rest. How is it then to be obtained, for sleep secured by means of drugs not only has the serious disadvantage that the drug habit may be induced thereby, but, as has been recently pointed out, the sleep thus caused is a cessation rather than a rest, the brain being deadened by the drug.

Serious cases of brain fag have been treated by a Swedish physician with such success by the method of placing the patients under a long hypnotic sleep that it is probable the same treatment will be adopted in this country. It is a combination of Nature-cure and hypnotism, the sleep thus produced compelling the patient to keep quiet, and so to give the recuperative powers of Nature a fair chance. The treatment appears to be a rational one. What is needed in London, however, if it is to be carried out, is a hospital where nervous and mental diseases can be treated by this method. At present there is no such institution, nor are wards set aside for this purpose in hospitals where cases of this class are treated.

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