

Annotations.

SANATORIA FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

An important deputation organised by the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health was received last week by the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the object of the deputation was to represent to the Board the desirability of its undertaking to provide sanatoria for the reception and treatment of cases of consumption.

The bodies represented on the deputation included the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis, the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal Institute of Public Health, the Royal Sanitary Institute, the National Society of Health, the Hospital Saturday Fund Association, the Hospital Sunday Fund Association, the Mansion House Council (Dwellings of the Poor), and the Charity Organisation Society.

The speakers included Dr. Orme Duffield, Medical Officer of Health for the Royal Borough of Kensington, Sir William Broadbent, Sir Edward Currie, and others.

Dr. Duffield pointed out that there were 7,000 to 8,000 cases of phthisis in London every year, one-third of the deaths from which occurred in Poor Law institutions. He asked the Board to at once take steps to form sanatoria for consumption, and to co-ordinate existing sanatoria under the control of one body.

Sir William Broadbent said that he hoped the board would constitute itself the authority for dealing with tuberculosis as a whole, and then, little by little, step by step, they would be able to command resources for dealing with the disease. The expenses need not be very great. Bungalows, huts, and such-like buildings would be all that would be required. It was the duty of the board to undertake this work, not for the benefit of the individual, but for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman, Mr. Scobell, said that the deputation could not have addressed themselves to an assembly more sympathetic and more anxious to do what in them lay for the public health of London. The main question was whether the ratepayers of London were sufficiently educated and acquainted with the vast wants of the tuberculosis population to induce them to consent to an extension of their rates. The Board had no power to incur great expenditure. The Board, however, might pro-

mise the deputation to give their most earnest consideration to the facts put before them.

THE KING'S HOSPITAL FUND AND MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

The authorities of the King's Hospital Fund have been prompt in notifying to the hospitals which desire to obtain grants from the Fund the conditions to be complied with in regard to the accounts of their medical schools before such applications can be entertained. The Hon. Secretaries have called the attention of the Secretaries of the twelve London hospitals with medical schools to the following resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Fund:—

"That the Executive Committee, having considered the recommendation of Sir Edward Fry's Committee (par. 27), advises the general council to notify to the hospitals that no grants will be made from the King's Fund as from and after January 1st, 1906, to any hospitals which make payments to, or on account of, their medical schools out of general funds subscribed for the relief of the sick poor."

The Executive Committee add in explanation that where the hospital and school form a single institution, or where subscribers have been in the habit of subscribing to the hospital funds, knowing that grants are made from those funds to the school, it will be necessary in future to keep separate accounts for the school, both in respect of receipts and expenditure. All money given to the hospital on and after January 1st, 1906, not specially earmarked by the donor, should be paid direct into the general account, and nothing should be paid out of the general account to, or on account of, the medical school.

BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S COURT.

Birmingham is to be congratulated on having established a special police-court for children. Last week the first court was held, when twenty-five cases were dealt with. The presiding magistrate, Mr. Courtney Lord, the initiator of the movement, said that the bench desire to check the stream of criminality by stopping it at its source, and warned parents that they would be held answerable for any negligence. The bench insisted on the provision of a new book, so that the names of offenders should not be entered on the ordinary register. On the whole, the tendency shown by the magistrates was to hold the parents responsible, and to punish them rather than the children.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)