

Medical Matters.

SCHOOL CHILDREN AND HYGIENE.

The *British Medical Journal* reports that the Aertzetag, which is the German equivalent of the Annual Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, and met this summer at Danzig, agreed to the following recommendations of a special commission without a division:—

1. Children should be taught the rules of hygiene in schools. A proper understanding of hygiene forms the foundation for properly carrying it out, leading to an improvement in the health of the masses, in the prosperity of the population, and in the general power of resistance, thereby increasing the wealth of the populace.

2. Hygiene should form a special subject of instruction in the education of teachers of elementary and private schools. Medical men are specially suited to give such instruction, since their education and calling offers a guarantee that the instruction shall be efficient.

3. The attention of the scholars should be called to the subject of hygiene at every convenient occasion, and they should be required continuously to obey its rules. Advice respecting the treatment of disease, however, should not be given. Appropriate chapters on hygiene should be included in school books, and should be written with the assistance of medical men.

4. Special instruction in hygiene is chiefly required for senior scholars. In schools where subjects are taught by special teachers, hygiene should be taught by medical men. The employment of school doctors in all schools will materially facilitate the carrying out of this instruction.

5. The co-operation of medical men on the school boards is desirable to ensure that education of school children in hygiene is properly carried out.

6. The Aertzetag does not consider that the time has yet come to decide whether the school should assist in the enlightenment on sexual matters.

7. It is at present an open question whether the school doctor should be a whole time or part time officer. This must be decided according to local conditions.

THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Feeble Minded lays down the principle that the mental condition of the mentally defective, and neither their poverty nor their crime, is the real ground of their claim for help by the State.

Some Further Details in the Nursing of Scarlet Fever in Hospital Practice.

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(Concluded from page 124.)

We now come to the question of the importance of utensils as factors in the conveyance of infection, and it will be advisable to draw a clear distinction between those that are very likely to be contaminated, and those which it may be desirable to keep a watch over, but which are not by any means so important as the former.

First amongst the important utensils, I would place tongue depressors. It is essential that these shall not only be sterilised, but shall remain sterile. The only justifiable depressor for use in a fever hospital in my opinion is a straight piece of polished metal. At Monsall, a strip of thick copper seven inches long by one inch wide is used: this can be bent if thought necessary. A large number—at least one for each patient—are employed in each ward; they are sterilised by boiling, and are then immersed upright in a jar of boracic solution, which covers them half-way. After use the spatula is dropped into an outer dish containing Izal solution. When the round is completed the spatulas are again sterilised and immersed in the boracic solution. The essential point is that more sterile spatulas should be ready for use than are likely to be required.

Next, I would take the appliances for the irrigation of the throat and nose. At Monsall only one instrument is allowed, namely, the douche, and a large supply is provided of nozzles which are sterilised in the same way as the spatulas. I do not, myself, consider that any form of syringe is permissible in the treatment of infectious disease. Not only is there a great risk of these becoming septic (and many of these syringes cannot even in theory be sterilised) but there is no way of preventing a careless nurse using too much force, and so causing the spread of disease beyond the organ that is being irrigated.

Next in importance to the nozzles come the forceps and swab holders, and any instrument that may be required for the dressing of wounds. Inasmuch as these are only required for a definite purpose, namely, the treatment of an individual case, they are sterilised spe-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)