

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

### HEALTH SUNDAY.

Throughout England and Wales, January 23rd was observed as Health Sunday and references to the Nation's health were made in many churches and chapels and at religious meetings.

The Bishop of London, preaching at Northwood, Middlesex, said:—

"We see in Germany the marvellous results which have been accomplished in 20 years by a system of outdoor camps, of compulsory exercises, and the successful inculcation of the belief that love of country comes first, before any personal enjoyment, and that patriotism comes first and "having a good time" comes last. Even on this lower ground we do well to ask whether a nation which spends £500,000,000 on gambling and £240,000,000 on drink will be able to stand for ever against another nation which spends an equal number of millions on keeping physically fit. I believe it is perfectly astounding to see the physical perfection which the youth of Germany, both men and women, have attained.

"But I put my appeal on far higher grounds. It is surely our duty, having been trusted with this marvellous gift of a human body, to make the best of it. To my mind it is perfectly sickening to see men and women throwing away their health by over-drinking, over-eating, over smoking, by turning night into day and getting no other exercise than by watching other people play games."

### CAUSES OF MENTAL DIFFERENCES:

Mrs. R. G. Burden, Warden of Stoke Park Colony, Bristol, has made possible an important and comprehensive study of the human brain by the Burden Mental Research Trust through the generous gift of £10,000 to be spent during five years under the Trust.

On this Trust of which the chairman is Professor R. J. A. Berry, M.D., F.R.S.E., director of medical services at Stoke Park Colony, the British Medical Association, the Medical Research Council, the Board of Control and the Board of Education are represented and a special team of medical and psychological research workers has been appointed to undertake the enquiry.

The chief object, in accordance with Mrs. Burden's wishes, is to discover the causes of mental differences, and to study their inheritance. Different aspects of the work include examination of 3,400 schoolchildren; compilation of similar records from 1,000 "defective" patients consecutively admitted to Stoke Park Colony; and the formation of a collection of 130 defective brains and 90 normal brains in order that the significance of physical differences between individual brains can be fully examined.

It is not merely a question of the size of the brain, although size enters into the problem. The structure of the brain is also important. At the same time, an intensive study is being made of tissue differences in the higher centres of the brain, and a special examination of the part of the brain concerned with sight is being planned. An illustrative atlas is also being prepared, based on photographs of 120 defective brains. A full account of the age, family history, and mental and physical characteristics of the individuals concerned during life will also be provided. Similar photographs of normal brains will be shown for comparison.

The scientific results of this important study when published will be received with great interest.

### HOSPITAL FOR CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY.

As was indicated in the course of proceedings upon the Air Raid Precautions Bill the Government have for some

time had under consideration the arrangements to be made for civilian casualties in the event of an emergency. Local authorities are already making in their air raid precautions schemes provision for the establishment of clearing hospitals, and it has now been decided that, with a view to making the fullest use of the existing facilities and extending them if necessary, a complete survey of the hospital accommodation of the country (including any earmarked as clearing hospitals) should be carried out.

The survey will be undertaken in England and Wales by the Minister of Health, and in Scotland by the Department of Health for Scotland. In England it will be made through the agency of a staff composed of the General Inspectors of the Ministry and certain selected Medical Officers. In Wales it will be made by the Welsh Board of Health. These Officers have been instructed in the first instance to confer with Medical Officers of Health concerned and with the leading representatives of the voluntary and other hospitals.

So far as the provision of accommodation in or on the sites of Mental Hospitals and Mental Deficiency Institutions is involved, the survey will be undertaken in England and Wales by the Board of Control, and in Scotland by the General Board of Control for Scotland.

### MODERN FRACTURE CLINICS.

The Inter-Departmental Committee which has been appointed by the Home Secretary, Minister of Health and Secretary of State for Scotland, recently heard evidence from Sir Cuthbert Wallace, President, Professor Gray Turner, Vice-president of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Professor Barling, a member of the Council of the College, in support of the organisation of fracture clinics on lines which the Committee has recommended in its interim report issued last year. The witnesses discussed the medical staffing of the clinics, the steps which should be taken to instruct medical men in the modern methods of treating fractures, and the part which general practitioners might take in an organised fracture service.

### TUBERCULOSIS IN INDIA.

*The Times* announces that with the approval of the King-Emperor an appeal for a fund to combat tuberculosis in India has been launched by Lady Linlithgow. It will be known as the King-Emperor's Fund, and will commemorate in India his accession to the Throne. The King has shown his practical interest in the scheme by subscribing £750, and the Queen has subscribed £250.

With Lady Linlithgow the Viceroy has contributed Rs.10,000 (about £750), and the appeal is obtaining the support of Governors of the Provinces, the Ruling Princes, members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, the Presidents of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and the Chief Justice and Judges of the Federal Court, and already in response to the appeal the King-Emperor's Anti-Tuberculosis Fund shows a total of more than £127,500.

The new organisation will not supplant but will expand the work of existing tuberculosis organisations in the country. Ninety-five per cent. of the money raised will be spent in the areas which contribute it.

Deaths from tuberculosis in India are estimated to be between 300,000 and 600,000 a year. The toll falls principally upon young adults, chiefly in the urban areas.

A community centre with facilities for social gatherings, recreation, a child welfare clinic, a nursery school and a public library is to be opened at Lewisham for the use of tenants on the L.C.C. estates at Downham and Whitefoot Lane. The Council proposes to let the site to the National Council of Social Service at a nominal rent of £10 a year.

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