

The reduction in the number of domiciliary confinements, which began in 1948, is due partly to the decreasing birth-rate and partly to the attraction of hospital confinement.

The demand on the services of the District Nursing Associations, who carry out home nursing on behalf of the Council, continues to increase, over 1,600,000 visits being paid last year—an average of 14 visits daily for each nurse. The demand on the domestic help service continues to grow, nearly 28,000 cases being assisted last year (26,542 in 1951).

A regrettable feature in the Council's campaign for immunisation against diphtheria is the continued drop in the estimated percentage of children under five years of age who have been immunised. It is now only 50.2 per cent. Efforts are being made to increase this percentage.

The demand on the London Ambulance Service was again very great, 810,002 patients being conveyed by the General Section (including agency and supplementary services) (709,986 in 1951) involving well over 5 million miles. In the Accident Section there were 87,691 calls with a mileage of 442,268.

The officers responsible for the removal to mental observation wards of patients in need of care and attention because of mental disorder dealt with 7,863 patients (7,393 in 1951).

The School Health Service is reviewed in detail. 456,307 medical inspections were carried out during the year and only 16.2 per cent. of the children examined required to be referred for further medical advice or treatment (17.0 per cent. in 1951).

Brief reports from the nine divisional medical officers are included and full statistical tables are printed as an appendix.

The report, published by the London County Council, may be purchased from the Information Bureau at County Hall (Room 8, South Block), or from Staples Press, Ltd., Mandeville Place, W.1, either direct or through any bookseller. The price is 2s. 6d., postage 2s. 10½d.

Anglo-Danish Sanatorium Scheme.

Hundred and Fiftieth British Child goes to Denmark for Treatment.

ON DECEMBER 9TH the hundred and fiftieth British child to be treated for tuberculosis at Vordingborg Sanatorium, Denmark, left London by air as one of a party of 25. The party was seen off by Princess Georg of Denmark and Dame Adeline Genée, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Anglo-Danish Fund Appeal which finances the scheme. As usual the children were selected by the Medical Committee of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis. They came from several different areas: London, the Home Counties, the Midlands, Wales and Scotland, and the British Red Cross Society is in charge of welfare arrangements.

The party, together with other British children at the sanatorium, celebrated Christmas in Danish fashion. In accordance with tradition the children had their Christmas dinner on December 24th. A large fir tree was cut for them in the neighbouring woods and they shared Christmas with an equal number of Danish children. Each British child in Denmark received a letter from Father Christmas, and the outgoing plane took presents to them all.

Apart from a further party of 21 coming back this month, 59 children have already returned to Great Britain after treatment, and the doctors who have seen them are unanimous in their opinion that the children have benefited greatly from their stay in Denmark. Many have gone back to school—all the children if medically fit carry on their education while at Vordingborg, and some months ago an English teacher was appointed to the sanatorium—and other older ones have started professional training for careers. There is no doubt that the scheme is of considerable value in adding to the number of beds available for treatment, and also in giving many children a most interesting experience. A number of them, for instance, have had the opportunity of visiting Danish homes.

The Passing Bell.

WE REGRET TO RECORD the death of Miss Alice Cleverley Bassett, Member of the British College of Nurses, at a very great age.

Miss Bassett received her training at the Royal Hants County Hospital, and held the posts of Ward Sister and Night Sister in her training school. She was fever trained, serving as Ward Sister at the Fountain Hospital, Tooting and the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, where she was appointed House Sister, a post she held with distinction until her retirement. Miss Bassett will be remembered by all who knew her as a very fine example of the Nurses of her time, in her kindness and unswerving devotion to duty.

IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET that we have to report the death of Miss Annie Therésa Hyde—Fellow of the British College of Nurses, on December 26th, 1953, at Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent, after a few weeks' illness. Miss Hyde received her training at Southwark Hospital, East Dulwich Grove, S.E., and had held the position of Assistant Matron at the Northern Hospital, Winchmore Hill, and Matron of the Southern Hospital, Dartford, from which she was finally appointed Matron of Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, an office she held with distinction until her retirement.

We feel that the world is the poorer in the passing of the spirited, loyal and capable friend and colleague—Annie Therésa Hyde.

Philips Moving Beam Deep Therapy Unit.

PHILIPS ELECTRICAL, LTD., Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2, have announced a new apparatus for deep X-Ray therapy, based on the principle of moving beam irradiation. The apparatus consists of two major elements, the moving beam mechanism and the 250 kV. constant potential generating equipment and oil-cooled X-Ray tube. With this new unit it is possible to move the X-Ray tube round the long axis of the patient, the lesion to be treated being situated at the centre of rotation. In addition to this "Rotation" technique, it is also possible to move the tube up and down the long axis of the body, a movement which is referred to as "Translation." Both movements can also be combined; normal non-moving techniques can be carried out as well. The object of moving the X-Ray source is to deliver a very high dose of X-Rays to the tumour, at the same time spreading the incident dose on the skin over as large an area as possible. Light beam centring devices are provided for rapid and accurate setting up of the patient. Provision for fluoroscopic control is also incorporated. All movements are initiated from the control desk of the X-Ray generator.

The 250 kV generating equipment is claimed by the manufacturers to combine all the advantages to be expected from a modern constant potential apparatus, with simple and accurate setting of the dose to be administered, accurate and continuous monitoring of the radiation delivered and a very high degree of stabilisation, of both the X-Ray tube tension and current. The control table enables the therapist to select automatic pre-set techniques, or to have complete free control of the kV., mA and filtration, with full protection against overloading of the X-Ray tube. The moving beam facilities are controlled from this desk. The X-Ray tube, which is shockproof and oil-cooled, can be operated with tensions from 50 to 250 kV. and with tube current up to 25 mA. (15 mA. at 250 kV.). The X-Ray output is stated to be 115 "r" per minute at 50 cm. focus skin distance, free in air, with a half value layer of 1.1 mm. of copper.

The equipment was shown at the Seventh International Congress of Radiology, held in Copenhagen last year, and is stated by the makers to have been generally acclaimed as one of the most outstanding deep therapy developments within recent years.

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