

friend, who desires to remain anonymous, has placed a sum of money at the disposal of the Committee to erect a country branch and convalescent home to contain 100 beds to which patients can be transferred from the hospital.

In addition to the purchase money a sum of £1,000 per annum has been promised towards the endowment of this branch by the same friend, whose munificent gift will exceed £100,000. The Committee have already purchased 60 acres of land, some 350 ft. above sea level, lying on sand and gravel, well sheltered by woods and trees, and situated on the borders of Hertfordshire, and the erection of the building will be proceeded with forthwith. The Committee trust that the generous support of the public will be forthcoming in order that the balance of additional income required (some £4,000) may be subscribed.

At a meeting held in Leicester it was decided to provide a new wing at the Infirmary, at a cost of £12,000, and a convalescent home at the seaside, to cost £20,000, as memorials to the late Queen Victoria. The Mayor said £24,000 has been promised. The convalescent home will be maintained by annual collections. The Leicester Infirmary stands very high in public estimation, and has long been a leading provincial training school for nurses. It will be able to extend its useful work in the near future in many directions, and no happier or more beneficent memorial of our late Queen could be devised.

All the civil hospitals in South Africa did splendid work, but "gallant little Wales" has excelled itself. Those who were responsible for the Welsh Hospital may unreservedly congratulate themselves on the work accomplished. At the meeting, when a final report was presented, it was stated that out of 1,107 cases treated in the hospital, only ten proved fatal. Why? Because, in the words of the medical officer in charge, its "equipment was absolutely complete in every detail." We do not say that so low a death-rate was possible for the campaign as a whole, but these figures only show how many deaths must have been due to a lack of that completeness in equipment which so honourably distinguished the Welsh Hospital.

The new hospital which has been erected on Cardiff Road, Newport, at a cost of £30,000, is now complete, and the patients are about to be removed from the old hospital, which has been sold for £3,900.

Under the will of the late Mr. W. R. Sutton, of the firm of Sutton and Co., carriers, Golden Lane, E.C., the sum of upwards of two millions sterling has been bequeathed to trustees for the erection and endowment of dwellings for the poor of London and other great commercial centres.

This is the way to wage war on the wily tubercle bacillus—cleanliness and comfort are what he can't abide.

It is reported that the grave of Hippocrates has just been discovered during excavations at Larissa, in Thessaly. A royal commission has been sent to the place by the Greek Government to take what measures may seem advisable.

Professional Review.

A NATIONAL CONCERN.

LAISSER BOIRE.

In a striking pamphlet entitled "Typhoid the Destroyer of Armies, and its Abolition," published by Ballière, Tindal and Cox, 8, Henrietta Street, Strand, price 1s., Mr. Leigh Canney, M.D., brings overwhelming evidence to prove the extreme urgency of an effective sanitary authority which shall be authorised to control the water supply of our armies in future wars, and which will, by providing pure water for the use of the troops, eliminate water-borne diseases, such as enteric fever, dysentery, and cholera, which at present in all great wars have caused many more deaths than the wounds inflicted by the enemy.

The author points out that the recent experiences in South Africa as regards the partial destruction, and the more extensive paralyzing, of our armies by preventable disease, reveal a condition of want of foresight and indifference to hygiene on the part of those at the head of the War Office when this war broke out, that would have been discreditable in civil life in the administration of the remotest village of England or Scotland.

It has, he says, been rightly said by an authority that "the amount of illness (amongst troops on active service) varies with the genius of the Commander. The Commander-in-Chief at the War Office when this war broke out is responsible. The danger was known and calculated upon; he made no adequate provision to meet it. The danger is always foreseen by the medical department, and too often it is considered that their 'recommendations' may be ignored." Dr. Canney asserts that the entry of water-borne disease amongst forces in the field can be prevented. He therefore deplures, as altogether "off the lines," the appointment of the recent Hospitals Commission which was sent "up and down South Africa to ask whether men were comfortable, with their typhoid and dysentery at Bloemfontein." He contends that if proper sanitary precautions are taken, these diseases should not occur, and asks with reference to the scope of the Commission—"Was anything ever done more contemptibly inadequate to the main issue?" He leaves this commission, which can afford no ray of hope, to the future, and turns, full of hope, to the scientific professional commission which the R.A.M.C. has despatched to South Africa.

THE LESSON OF THE PAST.

Dr. Canney proves from the experience of the past, not only the direct relation of an impure water supply to the occurrence of enteric fever, but also shows that in armies on active service it is far more serious than in civil life.

"The army of a conqueror has often been destroyed by typhoid. It is the disease which especially dogs armies, and has even attained the name of 'camp' fever, from its usual occurrence in war. It is traceable through nearly all wars; in Roman times it was very frequent. The gigantic first Crusade was largely destroyed by it before reaching Constantinople. Henry V. lost four-fifths of his army in France by it. It decimated the Royalist and Parliamentary armies, and had the same action throughout the wars in the

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