

### Annotations.

#### THE MIDWIVES' BILL.

The Council of the British Medical Association has issued a Memorandum incorporating its objections to the Midwives' Bill. The points embodied are: (1) That the measure as it stands creates, contrary to the provisions of the Medical Act, 1886, a new class of midwifery practitioners, less trained than medical men, and in no degree abolishes the untrained and dangerous persons who practice midwifery, and act as midwifery nurses among the very poor. (2) That the constitution of the Midwives' Board is unsatisfactory, and that the Board should contain representatives from different parts of England and Wales. (3) That having regard to the short period of training of women to be admitted as certified midwives to the Midwives' Roll which appears to be contemplated by the Bill, owing to the retention of the certificate of the Obstetrical Society as a qualifying certificate for admission to the Roll, the provisions as to the local supervision of midwives are inadequate.

#### THE CRUSADE AGAINST CONSUMPTION.

An eminent physician recently said: "If we could ensure the destruction of all the sputa of the sufferers from phthisis, and secure a supply of meat and milk absolutely free from tubercle bacilli, all the diseases due to tuberculosis, which now cause one-seventh to one-eighth of the total number of deaths, would cease from the land."

It is a big "if," but it is satisfactory that the crusade against this disease, which received so great an impetus last year at the Tuberculosis Congress, is being prosecuted in earnest, and, by the multiplication of sanatoria all over the country, not only are tuberculous patients given the best chance of recovery, but they cease to be a source of danger and infection to those amongst whom they live. One of the latest of these sanatoria is that in Delamere Forest, which was opened in September last year in connection with the Liverpool Hospital for Consumption, at a cost of £15,000. Out of the 47 cases received up to the end of the year only one had died, while 74 per cent. had been cured, or greatly improved in health.

Another measure which is proving of much value in the campaign against consumption is voluntary notification. In Manchester, where this practice is in force, 1,500 cases are annually notified. These are visited by public

health officers, who try to trace the source of infection, and in the large majority of cases they are able to point to the probable origin. A sanitary officer then visits the house and attends to its thorough disinfection, and gives directions as to the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness. Afterwards, once a month, either this officer or a member of the Ladies' Health Committee visits the house and makes a report to the Medical Officer of Health.

#### THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE PARIS HOSPITALS.

The question of the re-organisation of the Paris hospitals has been under consideration for some time. The desirability of rebuilding many of these institutions, which by no means come up to the modern standard of convenience or sanitation, is acknowledged, but the great expense involved in their demolition and reconstruction stands in the way. A report was placed before the municipal council by M. Lefevre, which included the rebuilding of many of the hospitals and the thorough repair of the others, the demolition of the Hôtel Dieu, the enlargement of the Brevannes and Rochefoucauld establishments, and the building of a large central washhouse and laundry at an expenditure of 75 million francs. The Council, however, recoiled from authorising this expenditure, and the plan was rejected. Now, M. Monier, the Director of the Assistance Publique, has again revived M. Lefevre's scheme, with some modifications. His proposal, if carried out, would, it is estimated, cost 83 million francs, of which sum 29 million francs would be provided by the sale of sites of existing buildings to be demolished, would provide 2,000 new beds, of which number 1,208 would be purely for hospital purposes, and includes the rebuilding of eight hospitals, the enlargement of five, the building of a new hospital for children suffering from tuberculous disease of the bones, the improvement of washhouses and laundries, the rebuilding of the central dispensary on a new site, and the thorough repair of the remaining hospitals. We hope, however, the fact will not be lost sight of that with the structural improvement of the hospitals there is need to re-organize the nursing service on a modern basis. Although some attempts have been made in this direction, there is need for thorough reform, and the value of buildings architecturally perfect will be greatly discounted if new methods are not introduced in the management of the nursing departments of the hospitals.

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