

appoint a department of Government to deal solely with water administration. He should expect that department to prove beneficial to the community partly by the wise exercise of its discretionary powers, but to be even more useful still by reason of the knowledge it would slowly accumulate and place at the disposal of the country.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

Sir C. Cameron (Medical Officer of Health, Dublin), delivering the presidential address in the Preventive Medicine and Vital Statistics Section, declared that the science of bacteriology promised to become one of the most important if not the most important adjunct of preventive medicine. Pasteur's researches had led to the adoption of an extensive system of preventive inoculation, which gave promise of results of the highest character in regard to the lessening or extinction of infectious diseases. The compulsory notification of at least tuberculosis of the lungs was a factor absolutely necessary in the prevention of consumption. The proper thing to do would be to obtain an Act of Parliament enabling sanitary authorities to make lung tuberculosis compulsorily notifiable. He also expressed the opinion that the popular prejudice against the use of the flesh and milk of diseased animals was founded on a true instinct, and also thought that all new clothes should be sterilised before being worn, for it had been proved that clothes while being made might become infected with the virus of scarlet fever, measles, small-pox, and similar disease.

LAWS OF SANITATION.

Captain J. Phillips (Frimley) urged the appointment of sanitary inspectors whose duties should be to make thorough inspections of all the sanitary appliances and conveniences in every cottage, and to teach the people practical sanitation, and Mr. Tolson, of Exeter, urged that the teaching of the ordinary laws of sanitation should be made a part of the curriculum of all village schools. He also suggested the creation of a Minister of Public Health. Professor Smith, President of the Institute of Public Health, said that notwithstanding the pictures one saw of pretty dairymaids and picturesque homesteads in the country, farms were really made up of dirty cowsheds. The people who attended to them were dirty, their clothes were dirty, and the whole condition of things was disgusting. Rural hygiene required to be placed on a more efficient footing, and he suggested the extension to the country of the system of sanitary inspection prevailing in towns.

A resolution asking the Council of the Institute to call the attention of the Government to the question was adopted.

HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS.

In the course of a discussion on the desirability of teaching hygiene in schools, Mrs. Windley contended that a beginning should be made by teaching the women of the nation, and advocated the formation of a ladies' association in connection with the institute to give lectures to working women on the subject of hygiene.

Amongst other subjects dealt with were veterinary supervision, and the genesis of small-pox. The whole of the papers and debates were most interesting, and the effect of the Congress should be to help to raise the standard of public health.

Professional Review.

"MEDICAL ETHICS."

We have received from the publishers, Messrs. John Wright and Co., Bristol, a copy of "Medical Ethics: A Guide to Professional Conduct," by Dr. Robert Saundby, Physician to the General Hospital, Birmingham, and formerly President of the Council of the British Medical Association. We have read the book with some interest, and in the expectation of finding some code of ethics laid down for the guidance of the medical profession in relation to the allied profession of nursing. We regret, however, that while the ethics of medical practitioners in relation to chemists, midwives, and dentists are dealt with, on rules are given in connection with their relation to nurses. We hope that when another edition is published this omission may be rectified.

In regard to the paragraph relating to midwives, the author says, in his introductory remarks, "objections have been made to the paragraph in which it is recognised that a medical practitioner may go to the assistance of a midwife, and its omission has been suggested; but there are very good reasons why this would not be right. Midwives exist, and are in practice all over the country; their education is improving, and their utility is being recognised more and more by the public, and also by the medical profession. In country districts midwives are encouraged to settle, and country practitioners, who have long distances to go, are very glad to have their time and night's rest spared by such assistance. . . . The midwife in her proper place, and under suitable regulation, is an established member of society; the medical profession should recognise this fact, and should unite to secure her better education, and to exclude from practice ignorant and drunken women."

The author also lays down:—

"A medical practitioner should not allow his name to be used in the advertisements of a nurse."

Canvassing for patients "is equally reprehensible where the agents are either collectors for private medical clubs, midwives, or monthly nurses."

"Medical practitioners should not receive commissions from tradespeople in return for recommending them or their wares, or from dentists for recommending patients, nor should they pay commissions to hotel proprietors, lodging-house keepers, monthly nurses, midwives, or others, for introductions to cases."

"It is usual for doctors to refuse to accept fees from nurses, but the remission is merely an act of grace."

"Medical practitioners may be called in by midwives, but a midwife possesses no knowledge which can make her a party to a consultation. Under such circumstances she should be treated with courtesy, but the medical practitioner should take full charge of the case, and regard the midwife rather as an assistant than as a colleague."

"A medical officer of health, in charge of an isolation hospital, is not justified in authorising a nurse in charge to refuse admission to cases sent to the hospital by a duly qualified practitioner unless she is satisfied of the correctness of the diagnosis."

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