

Annotations.

THE TREATMENT OF LONDON SEWAGE.

The system in vogue in Massachusetts of treating sewage in coke beds has recently been tried by the London County Council, with the result that Dr. Clowes, chief chemist to the Council, recommends the extension of the system until the sewage of the whole of London is treated by this method. The sewage is first screened on its way from the mains to the settling tanks; there the sludge settles, and bacterial action is accountable for the disappearance of 50 per cent. After this the sewage passes into great beds of coke six feet deep. The efficacy of this treatment is proved by the fact that the water which is drained off from these beds is, in two hours' time, pure enough to support fish life. A further advantage resulting from the adoption of this system is the increased purity of the water which runs into the river, and far less sludge will be tipped into the estuary of the Thames than is at present the case.

HUDDLED HOSPITALS.

The *Daily Mail* in a thoughtful article, illustrated by an excellent diagram, draws attention to the fact that while the majority of London hospitals are congregated in an area within a two-mile radius of Charing Cross, the necessity for hospital accommodation in this area is on the decrease, as the population which they serve is gravitating more and more to the suburbs. Further, not only are the London hospitals huddled together, but the sites which they occupy are almost priceless. Thus, the sites of St. Bartholomew's and St. George's are valued at a million sterling each. The benefit of the removal of some of our great hospitals would, therefore, be twofold. They would bring the benefits they confer into districts occupied mainly by artisans, who at present have to go considerable distances in order to obtain hospital treatment, and, further, the sum obtained by the sale of the sites of these institutions would go far to solve the difficulty of their efficient maintenance, for not only would it suffice to erect new hospitals, and equip them on the most approved modern principles, but it would also provide endowments which would secure a considerable annual income. The only large general hospitals which at present minister to the needs of South London are St. Thomas's, at

Westminster Bridge, and Guy's, which is close to London Bridge. Our contemporary proposes the removal of St. Bartholomew's, Westminster, and Charing Cross to Battersea, Greenwich, and Tottenham; a suggestion which, if adopted, would not only provide much-needed hospitals in these populous districts, but would also enable the patients to have that first essential of the sick—an abundance of fresh air, which is impossible in congested city areas. An excellent example has been given by a special hospital—the Belgrave Hospital for Children—which is removing from Pimlico to the Oval, but we fear that without great pressure the removal of general hospitals with medical schools will not be accomplished, especially as they have quite recently spent enormous sums of money in acquiring valuable land for extending and modernising their buildings and medical schools, and as the King's Hospital Fund, by centralising financial support, tends to a monopoly of power in connection with the voluntary hospitals, public opinion will in the future have less and less influence in their management. A Hospital Trust for London, as we prophesied, has become an accomplished fact.

THE ASYLUMS BOARD AND CONSUMPTION.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board meeting on Saturday received from the General Purposes Committee a report that it had considered a letter from the Bermondsey Borough Council urging the establishment by the Board of sanatoria for the treatment of consumptive persons. Of the twenty-six borough councils in the metropolis ten approved the proposal, five approved the principle of the need of open-air treatment for consumptives, but were not agreed as to the authority for carrying out the same, and the remaining eleven had either taken no action in the matter or were not in favour of the proposal. In view of the fact that there was not yet a general consensus of opinion among the local authorities in London in favour of the Metropolitan Asylums Board undertaking the treatment of consumptive patients, the Committee had adjourned the further consideration of the matter for twelve months.

A MILLIONAIRE'S GRATITUDE.

Mr. Ogden Armour, the millionaire, is said to have practically decided to found a great school of surgery in Chicago, to commemorate the cure of his daughter of hip disease by Dr. Lorenz, the great Austrian surgeon.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)