

Annotations.

THE CARE OF INFANTS.

An important Conference, convened under the auspices of the Women's Industrial Council, was held last week at the offices of the London School Board on the Thames Embankment, under the presidency of Mrs. Creighton, when the following resolution, proposed by Miss Amy Hughes, and seconded by Dr. Helen Webb, was carried unanimously:—

“That this Conference is impressed with the urgent need of providing training for girls of the industrial class in the care and management of children; that this training, on broadly technical lines, should take place at a day technical school, and continue for not less than one year; and that this Conference earnestly recommends the Technical Education Board of London, and all organisations dealing with technical training, to consider the advisability of establishing suitable schools.”

The resolution will be forwarded to the Technical Education Board with an earnest recommendation that the possibilities of establishing suitable schools should be considered. We hope this recommendation may be adopted. The one thing which is certain is that in due course the large majority of girls of the industrial class become mothers, and, while the maternal affection of this class is frequently strong, their ignorance of the care of infants is well-nigh unfathomable. It is the duty of the State to see that education in this essential branch of knowledge is available for her children, and that they are encouraged to obtain it.

PSYCHICAL RESEARCH.

At the annual meeting of the Psychical Research Society, held in London last week, the new President (Professor W. F. Barrett) was introduced by his predecessor in the office, Sir Oliver Lodge, who said that not only was the Professor noted for his research in physics, but he was one of the founders of the Society when psychical research was by no means so respectable as now.

The new President delivered an interesting address, and suggested as points for future research: (1) Whether the telepathic transference of thought from one person to another was a faculty in some degree possessed by all persons or confined to a few; (2) by what process can one mind affect another at a distance, and whether animals shared with man this telepathic power. The race was slowly awakening to a sense of the large self which embraced the many in one.

Medical Matters.

PLAGUE.



Plague continues to spread in India, where the “plague season” declares its presence by an ever-increasing death-rate. The first outbreak of plague occurred in the City of Bombay in 1896 in the month of September, and the epidemic increased in virulence until March, 1897, when the outbreak subsided. Ever since the winter of 1896-97 the disease has recurred, and with an ever-increasing mortality.

During the year 1903 plague caused the death of 810,030 persons in India—a higher total than in any previous year. The disease reached its climax in April, 1903, when, during four weeks of the month, the average deaths from plague amounted to over 30,000 weekly.

In Cape Colony, plague has almost completely disappeared, a sporadic case having occurred only occasionally during the past six months.

In Mauritius, plague has gained a firm hold, and at the present moment some fifty fresh cases are reported weekly. During the year, plague has appeared in Hong-Kong in epidemic form, but in lessened virulence compared with several periods since 1894, when it was first reported. In several other places the disease has prevailed, but the outbreaks have been quite limited or the disease has been merely imported. From Japan, Neuchwang (China), the Philippines, New Caledonia, Selangor, Marseilles, Rio de Janeiro, and Chili, cases of plague have been reported.

The treatment for plague which has been tried in Hong-Kong, namely, carbolic acid in large doses, has been attended by some success. The interesting point about the carbolic acid treatment is the enormous doses in which the drug was given, as much as 144 grains of pure carbolic acid being given in twenty-four hours, administered in 12-grain doses every two hours. The acid caused no untoward symptoms, carbouluria even being seldom observed. We have evidently been entertaining false notions of the quantity of carbolic acid that may be given, 3 grains being the usually-accepted dose.

The control of plague amongst native races is a grave problem owing to the extreme difficulty of enforcing sanitary measures.

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