

Annotations.

THE CARE OF CONSUMPTIVES.

The importance of the maintenance of sanatoria for consumptives, and, therefore, of their adequate support, was urged by a deputation from the Nottingham Sanatorium at a recent meeting of the Nottingham District Trades Council. Dr. Ransom said that the deputation had come before the Council to put before them the best method of looking after those who had the misfortune to be stricken with that dreadful disease, consumption. Sanatoria were not, perhaps, the solution of the question. Better housing and food was the real cure for that scourge, but at present the rates would not bear a scheme having this end in view. Medical statistics showed that between 400 and 500 people died of consumption in Nottingham, while in the entire county nearly 1,000 succumbed every year. At least 1,200 were suffering from the disease, and probably not one-tenth of that number were in a position to take proper care of themselves or to pay for treatment. Practically the only hospital undertaking the care of consumptives was the Nottingham General Hospital, but, if all suffering from the disease were admitted there, there would be room for no one else. Over 250 consumptive patients were treated in the out-patient department, but little good could be done for them. They were not seen in their own homes, and the great majority were treated in vain. The outdoor treatment as practised at the Sanatorium was now the most hopeful. It would not cure everybody, but it would cure more than any other treatment, and it would be the basis for further investigation. The three bases of the treatment were fresh air, good food, and plenty of rest. In the matter of sanatoria, Germany was far ahead of us. A system of compulsory insurance was in force there, and in the opinion of the insurance companies it paid better to cure patients in sanatoria than to give them sick pay. Germany had accommodation for 40,000 patients in sanatoria, and the buildings were financed by the working classes, with some help from the Government. He was glad that friendly societies in this country had taken the matter in hand, and earnestly appealed to the delegates of the Nottingham District Trades Council for their assistance.

Other members of the deputation having spoken, the Chairman assured the deputation

that their statement would receive very hearty consideration.

The treatment of tuberculosis is one of the most pressing problems at the present moment in this country, and the outlook is distinctly hopeful. The discovery of the methods of its propagation has done much to introduce suitable methods of treatment which, to be satisfactory, must aim at the eradication rather than the alleviation of the disease.

A BASIS OF GENERAL EDUCATION.

It is curious to note how other professions concerned in the Registration of their members are confronted by the same problems with which nurses have to deal. Thus in relation to the Registration of Teachers the Board of Education in September, 1902, referred to the Consultative Committee the question of drafting regulations for the establishment of supplemental registers for teachers of special subjects.

The question is not so crucial a one as in the case of the Registration of Nurses, because it is quite possible to know and to be able to teach one subject thoroughly, and, at the same time, to be lacking in general knowledge. In the case of a nurse, on the other hand, it is not possible with only a knowledge of one branch of nursing to do justice to a patient, as one part of the human body cannot be nursed to the exclusion of the others. The results of the deliberations of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education in regard to the Registration of Specialists as teachers is therefore the more instructive. The Committee has given prolonged and earnest consideration to the matter, and after a conference with the Teachers' Registration Council a joint sub-committee, including representatives in equal numbers of these two bodies, was appointed to consider proposals for draft regulations for these supplemental registers. The report of this sub-committee was recently received and considered, and, as a result, the Consultative Committee, at their last meeting before the recess, resolved to recommend to the Board of Education that the establishment of supplemental registers be postponed until the teaching of the subjects proposed for the supplemental registers has been further organised in connection with general education. The Board of Education has accepted this recommendation, and for the present no further steps will be taken to establish such supplemental registers.

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