

beds at Heswall. It is intended primarily for children who, while curable, cannot be retained in ordinary hospitals long enough to effect a cure. Thus it is not to be a cripples' home or a home for incurables; it is to prevent children who are curable from becoming incurable or cripples, and this, it is remarked, is only possible "by country air and good food, an absence of the regulation time limit, freedom from dust, damp, smoke, and other injurious surroundings."

THE HEALTH OF PILOTS.—The Australian correspondent of the *Lancet* says the P. and O. steamship *Australia* was recently wrecked at Port Phillip Heads owing to the pilot in charge making a mistake about the lights. It appears that he was in bad health and had defective sight. The New South Wales Government has issued a regulation that every pilot in New South Wales shall, at any time when required by the superintendent, submit himself for examination by a Government medical officer, and, further, that no person appointed as a first-class pilot shall be deemed eligible to continue to hold such a position and to discharge the duties unless at least once in each year he attends before a medical officer appointed by State authority and obtains a certificate that he is in good health and not afflicted with any bodily or mental complaint or infirmity rendering him unfit to perform his duties, particularly as to sight, hearing, and speech.

INCIPIENT INSANITY.—At the recent meeting of the Ontario Medical Association, Dr. McPhedran moved: "That, in the opinion of the Association, there exists an urgent need for the establishment of hospital accommodation for the temporary reception and treatment of suspected cases of mental alienation. The establishment of such institutions offers the only efficient means for the cure of such cases, and would save many of them from the stigma of having been incarcerated in an asylum for the insane." The treatment of mental disorders at an early stage is of paramount importance. In no case is it more true that prevention is better than cure than in mental disease. Most people will be in sympathy with the above resolution.

RAVAGES OF BERI-BERI.—The most serious problem confronting the Japanese at present, says a correspondent of the *Telegraph* at Shanghai, is the enormous ravages caused among the troops by the disease known as beri-beri. It is said that the losses from this cause exceed the total casualties in battle. It is believed that this great spread of the disease is due to eating rice cold that has been cooked some time. The troops besieging Port Arthur are suffering most. Between beri-beri and killed and wounded the 11th Division has practically ceased to exist.

VIENNA'S NEW GIANT HOSPITAL.—When the new hospital in Vienna, of which the foundation-stone was recently laid by the Emperor of Austria, is completed it will form quite a town in itself. The total area covered is 2,400,000 square feet, and there will be forty separate buildings. Each patient will have 1,030 square feet of space, the largest proportion of space allotted to a patient in any hospital in the world. The ultimate cost will be about £1,500,000. The hospital will be on the "pavilion" or "cottage" plan. Each pavilion, with its sick wards, operating

and lecture rooms, will form a hospital by itself, and of these there will be eighteen. The hospital will have 2,300 beds.

The Opening of the Medical Schools.

With the beginning of October comes the close of the holidays and the settling down to work in earnest once more. The medical schools are now reopening, with the award of prizes gained by successful students during the past year, and some words of welcome to the "freshmen."

At University College the Dean (Professor Sidney Martin), in presenting the Annual Report, referred to Sir Donald Currie's gift of £100,000, £20,000 of which is to be devoted to the Nurses' Home. "It behoves us," he said, "to utilise Sir Donald Currie's gift well."

At the London School of Medicine for Women the introductory address was delivered by Miss Murdoch, L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. Medicine, she said, was a profession ever in need of fresh hands and brains. Human pain and suffering went on eternally, and fresh recruits must year after year be ready to fill up the places of those who had fallen out of the ranks. The students came that day into a great inheritance, an inheritance undreamt of by the women of forty years ago. They stepped with ease into some of the finest laboratories in London and all the recent equipments of science brought together within these walls to make good doctors of them.

Miss Murdoch gave some practical hints to the students with regard to sleep and general cleanliness, and with respect to clothes she said that most women wore too much clothing, which should be warm but light. She would especially warn them against tight lacing or lacing at all. She urged those aspiring to be doctors not to adopt any uncommon style of dress. Let them keep to the fashion of the day without devoting too much care and thought to it, because it was not really pleasant to be attended by a woman who dressed peculiarly, and it was one's duty to the world by which and in which one lived to dress as well as possible without wasting one's substance. She advised the students not to wear jewellery. Rings, bangles, and chains were so many germ traps, and were not sensible in working hours. She pleaded for the abolition of the hat, at all events in the country. By exposing their head and hair to the sunshine and the winds both would be benefited. Those who had not cycled without a hat had missed a keen pleasure. Long hatless days on the moors were worth living and dreaming of afterwards. Let them remember that nothing had helped women so much in the race of life as their devotion to out-of-door sports, and the bicycle had simply revolutionised and emancipated their whole lives.

This advice may be taken to heart by nurses as well as by students of medicine.

At St. Mary's Hospital Professor A. M. E. Wright, M.D., pointed out that the twentieth century offered the spectacle of a civilisation complete, or nearly so, with respect to the achievement of directive control over the forces of Nature, but utterly incomplete with respect to the achievement of direct control over the processes of disease. Practically no work was in progress in connection with the solution of the problems of disease.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)