

Urban District Councils for the reception and treatment of patients from those districts. No expense has been spared to make the wards as complete and as comfortable as possible.

The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is sending an expedition to Uganda to investigate the terrible ravages which have been made in the country recently by sleeping sickness. Hundreds of natives, it is stated, have been attacked. Another expedition will be sent to West Africa to attempt the discovery of the cause of black water fever, which is very prevalent just now.

The details of the fight in connection with the scourge of malaria constitute a most interesting page in modern medicine. At a luncheon given at the Liverpool University Club, Liverpool, by Sir Alfred Jones, in honour of Professor Savas, of Athens University, at which the Lord Mayor of the City presided, Dr. Ronald Ross described the ravages wrought by malaria in Greece. With a population of two and a-half millions there were, he said, 250,000 cases of malaria annually, and 1,760 deaths from that disease. The success achieved in Ismailia, Havana and the Campagna proved the possibility of abolishing the disease by clearing the swamps which constituted breeding places for the malaria-bearing gnats, and this was the work before scientists in Greece.

Preaching in Norwich Cathedral Dean Lefroy said that if hospitals were supported by the rates physicians and nurses would be entitled to pensions as public servants, and this would mean a heavy bill for economists to consider. Moreover, it would degrade a noble profession to political wire-pulling, and doctors would be appointed as Radicals or Conservatives rather than for skill. Dean Lefroy added that he was disappointed with the Cathedral collection for hospitals that morning, when £17 was contributed. Of this 18s. was in coppers, including two farthings. He implored Christians to show generosity to the hospitals, and thus avert making them charges on public rates.

The President of the Red Cross Society, M. Gustave Moynier, of Geneva, has been appointed Commander of the Legion of Honour by the French Government.

A memorial service for the late Rev. Sir J. Borra-daile Savory, Rector of St. Bartholomew-in-Great, West Smithfield, took place in that church on Saturday last at the same time as the funeral at Stoke Poges, and was attended by Mr. H. Wingfield Cross (representing Lord Ludlow, treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital) and other members of the hospital staff, with which it is so closely connected, owing to their common foundation by Rahere. Those Bart's nurses who remember the church in the days when the Lady Chapel was occupied by a blacksmith's shop and the floor of a fringe factory was supported by pillars within the altar rails, will realise what the Church at large owes to the late Rector, who has done so much to restore to its former beauty this grand old church, which had fallen on evil days before the work of restoration was taken in hand.

Sanitary Inspectors' Congress.

Among the points touched upon at the annual Congress of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association at Blackpool last week was the declining birth-rate amongst what Sir James Crichton Browne described as the *élite* of the people. He pointed out that "if we are recruiting our population from the poorer and mentally and physically feebler stocks of the country at a greater rate than from the better and more capable stocks, then gradual deterioration of the race is inevitable."

Dr. Theodore Hyslop, Senior Physician at Bethlem Hospital, contributed a paper on "Noise in its Sanitary Aspect," and its effect on the auditory mechanism. He said that, by day and night the brain was constantly exposed to the insidious attacks of noise. There was in city life no factor more apt to produce brain unrest with sequels of neurotism than incessant stimulation of the brain through the auditory organs. The fact that town life under existing circumstances made it impossible to obtain adequate brain rest went far to cause the prevalence of insanity, about which municipalities were solicitous but which they could do much more than they did to prevent.

It was not a question of disturbed sleep. The brain responded to noise quite independently of consciousness.

On the subject of food inspection Mr. J. McPheil, chief food inspector of Hull, said that great service to the cause of pure food had been rendered by the Press in the exposures of bad tinned meats. What was not so well known was that in rural markets skinny animals, known as "piners," were sold at hidé prices, but killed for beef; that beef and pork sausages were made mainly of stale bread, because it would hold a lot of water, and that smoked sausages were "smoked" with chemical powder which gave a smoky taste and odour.

The principal ingredient of that North-country delicacy known as "savory duck" or "Yorkshire duck" was sheep's lungs, which, without exception, contained thousands of worms and their eggs.

Mr. James Cantlie, F.R.C.S. in an interview with a contemporary dissents from the view of Sir James Crichton Browne. He says: "The fact that amongst the more wealthy grades of society the numbers are or may be decreasing owing to restricted families does not matter very much. So long as we have a prolific and healthy tone amongst the masses the nation need not fear for its future, for, after all, the classes have risen from the masses, and will continue to do so for all time. Our House of Lords is recruited from the commoners. The commoners are often the children of poor people, sometimes even of the poorest, but they are of a healthy stock, and, being so, are only fulfilling their place in the national laboratory whether as peasant, commoner, or peer."

The main thing is that the children of all classes should be well fed, well housed, well educated, and brought up under simple and wholesome conditions. Under such conditions all classes have, in the past, contributed to the nation men and women who have added lustre to its name.

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