

deals of life both by precept and example. Dr. Paine said it was a question of some importance whether more could not be done for the poor consumptive in Poor Law Infirmaries. In some more or less open-air treatment is provided, but in others the accommodation is too small to allow of wards being given up to them. Poor Law patients have a rooted objection to ventilation, a fact which made the admission of phthisical patients to general wards specially undesirable. Dr. Paine asked whether pressure could not be brought to bear on Poor-law Guardians to compel them to provide special treatment for the consumptives under their care.

The Chairman, Miss Isla Stewart, said that she had been very much struck by Dr. Kelynack's remarks on the great field opening up for nursing work. It was rather sad to hear that nurses found work amongst consumptives dull. It proved that they were thinking of what was interesting to themselves in a narrow way, along the lines on which they had been taught, instead of taking a wide interest in their fellow human beings. There was an enormous interest in dealing with human beings, whatever was the matter with them. Dr. Kelynack had opened up vistas as to the spheres of usefulness before well-educated, well-trained nurses, and made those present realize what an important part trained nurses may play in the spread of useful knowledge if they will acquire that knowledge.

Miss Amy Hughes, General Superintendent of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, laid stress upon the wide sphere of nurses' influence, if they looked beyond routine, as educational factors. She thought most would agree that the rich needed educating equally with the poor, to whom ignorance in regard to the laws of health was by no means confined. Miss Hughes also asked what nurses could do in dealing with the poor as to advising them in regard to the danger of tuberculosis, when children slept in the beds, or at least in the same ill-ventilated rooms as tuberculous patients. It was no use to go to a model building where there were at most two bedrooms, probably with no fireplace, and expect the people either to isolate a patient or to open the windows. In regard to the latter point the children would catch cold, which would be regarded as a worse evil than possible tuberculosis.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick said the primary aim of treatment should be as far as possible preventive. It was necessary, therefore, to go back to first causes. Why was the devastating curse of tuberculosis so widespread? Because the people had not room to breathe. In cities a sufficiency of fresh air was a difficulty even for the rich—and for the poor impossible. There must be something fundamentally wrong in the distribution and management of land when it was possible for persons to own more property than they were prepared to keep in a sanitary condition.

It was very little use to adopt treatment and leave primary causes alone. People needed educating on this point. Mrs. Fenwick stated that she had never been more shocked than when recently visiting a country town her attention was called to the infamous condition of the house property of a very

religious duke, and she thought it would be far more beneficial to his soul to make his houses habitable than to lavish money on the decoration of churches.

Mrs. Fenwick also referred to the note set by Dr. Kelynack, in his opening paper, when he addressed his audience as "fellow workers," thus emphasising the cordial relations which should exist between medicine and nursing in their work for the public good. She objected to being addressed from the top of a pedestal. There was, she said, a vast field for nurses outside the training schools, and it was very necessary that they should know something beyond the subjects usually included in the three years' curriculum. Phthisis did not receive much attention in the general hospitals, it was desirable therefore that Sanatoria and other special hospitals should be affiliated for teaching purposes to the general hospitals. Much remained to be taught to trained nurses before they were qualified to work in the homes of the poor. Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute met the need by a special course of instruction for Queen's Nurses. She advised district nurses to bring the sanitary housing of the poor, as they had opportunity before landlords, and landlords' wives, especially those who were rich.

Miss Edla Wortabet said that the overcrowding problem was an acute one in many country places, as many of the houses where the poor lived were both tiny and in bad repair, and those who lived in them were consequently anæmic and out of health. They dare not complain on account of the difficulty of obtaining other accommodation, the doctors were tied down, as the landed proprietors were their rich patients, and the district nurses found themselves equally handicapped because the Committees which employed them and paid their salaries were drawn to a great extent from the same class. There was, however, an Association—the Rural Housing Association—which concerned itself with the sanitary housing of the poor.

Miss Curtis, Superintendent of Queen's Nurses at Hammersmith, said that in connection with a Committee of the Charity Organisation Society, of which she was a member, hardly a week passed without some case of phthisis, needing assistance, being brought before it. A man was told that he must not continue work, that he needed sanatorium treatment; then came the enormous financial difficulty, and then the Committee deliberated if it were possible to raise the necessary money, and the case seemed so sad that the money was scraped up somehow, but they had had so many sad instances of cases which had utterly broken down on their return home that they were beginning to feel that they must reject these applications for help.

Miss Edith Palliser said she would like to ask one question, affecting the physical well-being of the nation—namely, whether no steps could be taken to train youths to refrain from the habit of expectoration. She thought teaching might be given in the Board Schools on the subject of promiscuous spitting. At present it was not uncommon, amongst the very poor, for lads who had seen their elders indulge in it to practise the habit as a manly one. If it were possible to reach these youths she believed it would

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