

At Ballymaclinton.

Wednesday, July 15th, was a red letter day at Ballymaclinton, the real Irish village at the Franco-British Exhibition, for wasn't Lady Aberdeen, "woife of the Lard-Lieutenant himself" going to open the Sanatorium, built in the grounds, to help in the battle against consumption, the scourge of Ireland. In her speech Lady Aberdeen said that about one-sixth of the deaths in the country were attributable to tuberculosis, and that this and the number of people emigrating every year was a serious drain on Ireland. Mrs. Birrell, wife of the Chief Secretary, was also present, and Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., who moved a vote of thanks to Lady Aberdeen, said that Ireland suffered more than any other part of the Kingdom from consumption.

All the profits from the village are to be devoted to the campaign fund for stamping out the disease which, it is estimated, will take 30 or 40 years to accomplish. Tea at the Ballymaclinton Restaurant proved as delightfully Irish as anyone could wish. The colleens were nearly all pretty, and mostly very shy. So that it was almost a treat to be told by one that we couldn't have any tea at present as the "whater had gone off the bhoil, and it was one of those bhoilers that you couldn't get the whater out of till it did bhoil," or presumably she would have been delighted to have obliged us! We felt we really were in Ireland. Then, again, the village entertainment was timed for 5 p.m., but the proscenium for the stage was still lying across two chairs in the making at that hour, and when it was finished and put up almost like lightning amidst cheers from a room packed with waiting people a colleen and a manager went round with tickets—standing 3d., seats 6d. A good deal of bantering and objecting took place as the time was getting near for the opening ceremony of the Sanatorium, which evidently was what half the people had come for, until the Manager announced at last that "This is the Oirish way, to get the people first, and then take the money," at which there was much laughter and clapping. Many then left, but the hall soon filled again, and a short but interesting programme was given. The Irish jig with two colleens and two bhoys, as a square dance, was quite unusual and well done. The village blacksmith played a charming melody on the violin very well indeed, and there were other dances, songs, and a clever little humorous sketch. Altogether a most enjoyable afternoon can be spent in the village alone. The national dress worn by the colleens, their

pretty cloaks, the thatched cottages, and the ancient church and old cross all going to make a most refreshing change from the ordinary routine of exhibitions. There are only two women in the village, and these are Irish who have not been imported direct from "Ould Oirland." EDA BERLON.

Open Air Schools.

As a nation we cling to established custom, and as children have been educated in close school-rooms for many years past it is difficult to disabuse our minds of the desirability of other methods. But the value of the open air schools for delicate children established by the London County Council has now been unquestionably proved, and Dr. Frederick Rose, Educational Adviser to the Education Committee of the Council, has designed a model open air school which it may be hoped will be used as a pattern by other educational authorities. The school is planned for one hundred children, in fine weather they are taught in the open; when wet, and not too cold, in the verandah attached to the class room, sleeping sheds are provided, as well as a swimming pool and baths.

Scientific Investigation.

The President of the Local Government Board has authorised for the current year the following researches in connection with the annual grant voted by Parliament in aid of scientific investigations concerning the causes and processes of disease:

1. A further inquiry by Dr. M. H. Gordon into the character and differential tests for the micro-organisms found in the throats of patients suffering from scarlet fever.
2. An investigation of protracted and recurrent infection in diphtheria. The bacteriological part of the investigation will be undertaken by the Lister Institute.
3. An investigation of protracted and recurrent infection in enteric fever.
4. Investigations into the presence of paratyphoid bacilli in man, the differentiation of streptococci in goats, and the bacteriological measurement of pollution of milk.
5. A statement of the results of the bacteriological examination of over 7,000 samples of milk from different parts of the country.
6. An investigation into flies as carriers of disease.
7. An inquiry into the condition of flock beddings. The bacteriology and biology of bedding (especially in relation to vermin) which will be undertaken in connection with this inquiry will be superintended by Professor Nuttall.
8. A statistical inquiry into the social incidence of disease will also be begun; the prevalence of varicose veins and of hernia under different social conditions forming the first subject of inquiry under this head.

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