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Editorial.

A CENTRAL LONDON HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, acting on proposals made by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, one of its Vice-Presidents, have taken an important and most useful step in forming a Sectional Committee, within the Union, to deal with questions affecting public health, and more especially those which are connected with women's work.

It is proposed to invite representatives from associations concerned with the work in question to join this Sectional Committee, as close co-operation between these associations and a Central London Health Committee of the N.U.W.W. seems desirable, in order that expert opinion on Public Health matters may be brought together for discussion, and information subsequently distributed to other centres by means of the machinery provided by its local branches.

A most far-reaching and valuable work is thus opened up to the National Union of Women Workers, for in regard to such questions as physical deterioration, the health of mothers and babies, the care of school children, in connection with all the details that medical inspection will bring in its train, and the condition of workers in industrial and other employments there is ample scope for enquiry and the summarising of information thus gained would be of great value. We are beginning to realise that to raise to and maintain the national health at a high standard is an aim worthy of our patriotism, and of the best work we can bring to the task, for nothing less is involved than the position which we hold amongst the nations. If we allow physical deterioration to take hold of us its inevitable consequences will be mental and moral deterioration also—and these mean mental and moral inferi-

ority. We therefore welcome the action of the National Union of Women Workers and cordially wish it success in its new undertaking. The following are among the questions suggested for immediate discussion:—

1. The education of the people in all matters relating to health by means of trained visitors, lectures, and the distribution of pamphlets.

2. The co-operation of Health Visitors in the homes with other agencies active in the prevention and cure of disease—*e.g.*, the Sanitary Authorities, the Hospitals, and the Officers of Health.

3. The care of the mother before and after confinement.

4. The prevention of infant mortality and disease.

5. The seeking out for treatment of cases of ill-health and neglect among children under school age and others in the home.

6. The care of school children referred for medical treatment following medical inspection in the schools.

7. The Home Treatment of Consumptives and the after care of phthisical cases who have been in a sanatorium.

8. The care of the aged.

9. The care of the feeble-minded in the home.

In all these questions nurses are intimately concerned, and on many points they will no doubt be able, from practical knowledge, to render valuable help to the Committee. We therefore commend its objects to them as worthy of their support. It is especially incumbent upon nurses who, in the course of their work, are brought into contact with the evils which arise from any deviation from the laws of health, to acquaint themselves with what is being done, not only to cure disease when it unfortunately occurs, but also to prevent its occurrence.

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