

The Tuberculosis Exhibition.

On Wednesday, June 3rd, the Tuberculosis Exhibition, organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis, was opened at the Whitechapel Art Gallery by Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board.

Mr. George Harwood, M.P., who presided, said that it was proposed to send the exhibition to various parts of London and then as a missionary evangel into the country.

Mr. Burns, in his opening remarks, said that in the past forty years, tuberculosis had been reduced some 50 per cent. In the past thirty years great advances had been made in the methods of its treatment, but in the past five years the greatest progress of all had been made, mainly through the efforts of public-spirited and devoted doctors and by the education of the people.

After showing that the world loses 5,000,000 people annually from tuberculosis, and that Britain loses a population equal to the annual extinction of the city of York, he said that there was no single cause for the ravages of consumption. One of the chief causes was social inequality. Generally speaking, consumption was the child of poverty, the daughter of ignorance, the offspring of drink, the product of carelessness. In London the death rate from consumption was 132 per 100,000. It was only 78 in happy, prosperous, and healthy Hampstead; but it was 215 in Finsbury.

It can be fought, he proceeded, by many forces in many ways, led by General Wellbeing—higher wages, cheap and better food, better housing, increased sobriety. As pauperism diminishes consumption declines. As food cheapens tuberculosis disappears.

Much pleasure was given by Mr. Burns' statement that the Government must lead the way in the crusade against consumption. "I am here," he said, "on behalf of the Prime Minister, especially to identify him and the Government with this association in all the good work they are undertaking. What is more, a great deal of the decline of chest complaints with the potter, the miner, the tin-miner, and the textile and woollen operative is due in no small measure to the brilliant and prescient administration of the Home Office by Mr. Asquith in 1892, 1893, and 1894. And he specially asked me to couple his name with your association's efforts and to assure you that in anything the Government can do, apart from politics, in the noblest cause of all, the happiness and health of the people, he will be delighted to assist your efforts."

THE EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition, which Mr. Burns declared open, was both interesting and instructive.

A prominent exhibit was a model illustrative of progressive crowding, sent by the Medical Officer of Health of St. Pancras; first one house on a small plot, then two, then a row of houses, then back to back houses, until at last the plot was almost completely covered by great barrack flats.

Then the overcrowding of the houses was shown very clearly, first one bed in a room, then two,

three, and four; then the division of the room by partitions, until the whole house was overcrowded.

Another striking exhibit was a reproduction of a one-roomed dwelling in London, dirty, and reeking of slumdom. By its side was a model of the same room if kept clean, but considering that this small room is inhabited by the father, mother, and two children, who live, eat, and sleep in it, it would be greatly to the credit of any woman who managed to keep it in order.

An excellent series of photographs, lent by the Paddington Dispensary, illustrated the bad home conditions in which patients were found.

A model lent by the Invalid Children's Aid Association of a spinal carriage, as lent to children for attending hospitals as out-patients was interesting. Some very interesting photographs gave a good idea of the outdoor life at the Children's Sanatorium, Holt, Norfolk.

A photograph lent by the Marylebone Health Society showed two cases of children with tuberculous disease of the spine in Lord Mayor Treloar's Home contrasted. In the one treated early there was no deformity, the other was a hopeless cripple.

Another interesting exhibit, showing the small cost at which appliances can be contrived, was an enamel saucepan, and a number of medicine bottles with cotton-wool stoppers for the sterilisation of a supply of milk for an infant, the whole plant costing 9d.

An interesting section of the exhibition was a facsimile of the end of a ward at the Edinburgh Royal Victoria Hospital for Consumption, arranged by a patient. Through the open windows one saw the beautiful view, over the Pentland Hills, familiar to those who know Edinburgh. The ward furniture was painted with velure—a white paint with a smooth, washable surface—by patients in the hospital. Two noticeable exhibits in this section were a mouth and nose protector, which was kept in position by curved wires over the ears much as a pair of spectacles is fixed, and some brown paper bags apparently containing bran, for the destruction of sputum in a furnace, the bags being removed in enamel pails. Then there was a model of a shelter arranged both for day and night use, with a storm screen used only in wet weather. This was made by a patient, and lent by Dr. Phillip.

The Kelling revolving shutter, as used at the Kelling Open-air Shelter, Holt, was worthy of study. The windows are made so as to slide back and leave the window space entirely open, and there is ventilation in the roof. The shelter is large enough to take a full length couch, and the cost is £10 10s.

An instructive exhibit was a genealogical tree, lent by the Health Society, of a consumptive family living under bad housing conditions.

A large and most interesting exhibit was an ideal Open-Air School, designed by Dr. Frederick Rose for a residential school, with sleeping sheds, dining shed, and swimming pool. Dr. Rose sees no reason whatever why, from the joint stand-point of education and health, this type of open-air school should not be adopted for ordinary elementary schools.

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