

Open-Air Schools.

A lecture of extreme interest was given by Dr. Frederick Rose, Assistant Educational Adviser to the London County Council at the Tuberculosis Exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery on "Open-Air Schools," on Saturday last, and was illustrated by numerous lantern slides, which were most interesting and instructive. The only thing which marred the lecture was that there were apparently no stewards, and a small section of the younger part of the audience insisted on talking, so that some important slides at the end were not shown, to the great disappointment of many present.

The lecturer spoke of the open-air schools which had been so successful in Charlottenburg, Mühlhausen, and other German towns, showing beautiful slides in illustration. The announcement that the London County Council was the first authority in this country to try the experiment was greeted with loud applause. The Council has now three open-air schools, at each of which 75 children can be received—at Kentish Town, Horniman Park, and on Shooter's Hill.

The theory underlying the organisation of the schools is simple. In fine weather all classes are held in the open—if wet in open sheds. Only when too wet or cold for the out-door life to be possible the children are taught in closed class-rooms. The ideal aimed at is life constantly spent in the open. In this connection an interesting picture was shown of children in Germany taking, and evidently enjoying, their breakfast in the open with snow on the ground.

Dr. Rose insisted that the proper way of teaching arithmetic is not by means of multiplication tables, but by putting a tape measure into the child's hand and letting him measure distances for himself. In the same way geography is taught on a map of England drawn to scale on the ground, and all the different geographical terms can be illustrated by lessons out of doors. The meaning of a watershed, with the rivers rising and flowing in different ways, can be actually observed by the children, and history is no longer dry facts when the different events are acted by the children. Pictures showing all these things, as well as children filing to their baths, preparing their food, and mending their stockings, were all thrown on the screen.

But work is not the only thing considered. For two hours every afternoon the children in these open-air schools rest and sleep out of doors, and those who know the conditions of their home life realise the boon this must be to a delicate child.

Most interesting were the pictures of children when they first entered the school and after they had been there for some time, when the strained, worn look had been effaced, the physique improved, and the moral tone raised.

The lecture was one full of possibilities for the future, and for a higher standard of health and happiness for the coming race. To those interested in these and kindred questions it was of absorbing interest.

Practical Points.

Post-operative treatment of cases of exophthalmic goitre.

Dr. Halsted has given the following outline of the post-operative treatment, in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, of cases of exophthalmic goitre. We quote from the *Alumnae Magazine*.

On admission:—

1. Weigh the patient.
2. Blood pressure three times in the first 24 hours.

After operation:—

1. Blood pressure observations not oftener than twice daily unless otherwise specified. The patient should scrupulously be spared unnecessary disturbing.

2. Force water by mouth; very hot water preferred if agreeable to patient.

3. Murphy method, in the more serious cases. Salt Sol. (1,000 c.c. repeated every six hours). (Murphy method given by means of small catheter, drop by drop, or about 1 c.c. in 3½ minutes—regulated by clamp).

4. Morphia only when specially ordered, and then, usually in very small doses—1/30 to 1/60 grain.

5. When ice coils are used:—Cover wound only with silver foil paper and one layer of gauze. Long ice bags, embracing the neck anteriorly, to be applied continuously. Only one to be removed for filling at a time. Change about every 30 minutes. A Leiter's coil may be substituted for the ice bags. When the neck is kept cold it is with the hope of retarding absorption by the wound surfaces. The newer operative procedures have made it possible to dispense with this treatment save in exceptional cases, the preliminary ligation of one, two, or more of the thyroid arteries having almost eliminated from the operation of thyroid lobectomy its greatest danger—the acute post-operative toxæmia.

6. The above routine is, of course, subject to changes in special cases.

To Prohibit Unclean Food.

The proposed uniform state sanitary inspection law prepared by the Committee appointed by the Association of State and National Food and Dairy Departments of the United States provides for absolute cleanliness and hygienic conditions in food factories, cars, and other vehicles in which foods are shipped and shops in which they are sold, as well as in all hotels and restaurants. The proposed law, according to the *National Food Magazine*, states in part:—

"That every building, room, basement, or cellar occupied or used as a bakery, confectionery, cannery, packing-house, slaughter-house, dairy, creamery, cheese factory, restaurant, hotel, grocery, meat market, or other place or apartment used for the preparation for sale, manufacture, packing, storage, sale, or distribution of any food, shall be properly lighted, drained, plumbed, and ventilated, and conducted with strict regard to the influence of such condition upon the health of the

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