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Editorial.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The growing interest in public health questions is evidenced by the activity of the Public Health Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers, which has, in pursuance of an arrangement made at the last committee, forwarded to its members a collection of interesting literature bearing on public health questions, issued by the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, as well as the first bound volume of *Sídinte*, the organ of that Association, which contains many interesting articles on these questions. The principal subjects on which the Sectional Committee sought for literature were—

(1) The various methods already adopted for the prevention and for the treatment of tuberculosis and for the care and education of phthisical patients.

(2) The method for securing a pure milk supply.

Papers dealing with these subjects, as well as with babies' clubs, the summer campaign against infantile mortality in Dublin, little mothers' classes, the Girls' Guild of Good Health, the Boys' Health Battalion, the disinfection of schools, and the campaign against flies, appear in last year's volume of *Sídinte*, and other interesting papers have appeared this year.

So far, the question of morality has not been dealt with by the Sectional Committee of the N.U.W.W., but it is one which is vital to the health of the nation, and immorality is certainly the underlying cause of many diseases not usually associated with it in the public mind. We hope that before long this question of morality in relation to health, which is essentially one which a national society of women should deal

seriously with, may be considered and reported on by the Sectional Committee on Public Health, and that suitable literature may be issued with its sanction.

It is quite impossible to enumerate all the useful leaflets issued under the authority of Women's National Health Association of Ireland. Those who desire to know more about them should write to the Literature Secretary, Vice-Regal Lodge, Dublin, for the order-sheet of the publications of the Association and make their own selection. Amongst some most useful ones we may mention "Tea: its Use and Abuse," "The Care of the Baby," "Suggestions for the Improvement of Dwellings and their Surroundings," "Air and Health," and "Away with the Flies"—all of which are simply written, conveying important lessons in language easy to be understood by people of ordinary education.

In the campaign for a higher standard of public health, nurses may take an important share, and they should regard it as a privilege and a duty to make use of their opportunities, which are many. It is natural that both in private houses and in the homes of the poor, where, if they are worthy members of their profession, they are regarded as the friends of many of the patients with whom they are intimately brought into contact—questions on matters of public health should be put to them, and information which may bear fruit a hundredfold may be given by them quite simply and naturally in the course of their visits. To equip themselves thoroughly for this work they should make a point of studying literature which will inform them on public health matters, and they will find that to which we have referred above most useful in this connection. The study of conditions in health should precede that of disease.

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