

and the knowledge of the conditions under which the germ multiplies, and the treatment to which it yields. It is now known that insanitary and ill-ventilated houses, and insufficient food render those subjected to them an easy prey to the ravages of the germ of tuberculosis, and since the infection once present may be conveyed far and wide, as a matter of self-protection as well as of public duty, it behoves the community as a whole to grapple with the question, which is not one for the medical profession alone, but is of social and political importance.

Fresh air, good food, and decent living conditions for the million are of urgent importance for the protection of the public, and what is true as regards tuberculosis is true with regard to many other diseases.

Thus the work of preventive medicine becomes of extreme importance. To the new school the reception and treatment of patients in hospitals is of secondary importance to the prevention of disease; just as it is better surgery to preserve an injured limb than to amputate it in the most brilliant manner.

The modern medical officer of health desires the elimination of slums, the medical supervision of school children, and recognition and treatment of tuberculosis in its earliest forms, in fact, the prevention of the disease instead of temporary alleviation, or cure, when it has gained a foothold.

Next month, beginning on July 1st, and lasting over five days, the "National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis" will hold its Annual Conference at Edinburgh, including a Tuberculosis Exhibition in the New College Buildings, Mound, for which the following programme is announced:—

July 1st.—Opening of the Tuberculosis Exhibition by the Countess of Aberdeen.

July 2nd.—"School Morning," when scholars and teachers in all the schools, as far as that is possible, will be addressed by great medical authorities. This "Tuberculosis Morning" in the schools will have, it is hoped, good results in impressing upon the young the wisdom of precautions against tuberculosis.

Inauguration of Royal Victoria Hospital Farm Colony. Part of the work of the Association is to promote such farm colonies where the sufferer from tuberculosis can win back health under conditions of open-air industry.

July 3rd.—Special service for University students and visitors and address by Professor Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University.

July 4th.—Tuberculosis Conference. Discussions on "The Avenues of Infection in Tuberculosis" and "Preventive Measures and the

Administrative Control of Tuberculosis."

Annual meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, chairman, Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Addresses by distinguished visitors.

Reception by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the City of Edinburgh.

July 5th.—Tuberculosis Conference in Rainy Hall. Discussions on "The Incidence of Tuberculosis in Childhood" and "The Working Man in Relation to Tuberculosis."

The exhibition will include illustrative exhibits grouped as follows:—(1) Extent of tuberculosis; (2) Cause of tuberculosis; (3) Breeding grounds of tuberculosis; (4) Spread of tuberculosis; (5) Tuberculosis amongst children; (6) Prevention of tuberculosis; (7) Cure of tuberculosis; (8) Pathological; (9) Historical and literary.

The campaign against tuberculosis in New York has been conducted on similar lines, one of the methods being to hire sites at prominent street corners in the city, to provide there for public use literature on the subject of consumption and telling exhibits, showing the incidence of consumption in dirty and dark localities. Further, at short intervals, a phonograph gives a short lecture on the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.

It is interesting to learn that the reason for selecting Edinburgh as the meeting place of the above Conference is that in the northern capital the best example of working a Dispensary system for the prevention of consumption is to be found, and the Conference will thus have the advantage of a practical demonstration, on the spot, of the methods which have been employed with great advantage. Delegates are expected to attend the Conference, not only from the United Kingdom and the Continent, but also from the United States of America, so that it should result in much practical usefulness.

Nursing Best Taught by Nurses.

The St. John Ambulance Association has withdrawn from the voluntary aid scheme for the aid to the sick and wounded in the event of invasion, promulgated by the War Office in August last, under which scheme the Ambulance Department of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England undertook to give the preliminary training required in first aid and nursing to candidates for the Voluntary Aid Detachments. The course is now clear for the organisation of a more modern curriculum, in which we may hope practical nursing will be taught by nurses.

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