

Dr. L. Haden Guest, in describing the suggested organisation of a school clinic in the *Daily News*, considers that as in every closely-populated locality schools are built fairly close to each other, and fall into groups, to serve a group of schools only one school clinic is required, and in a thickly-populated neighbourhood one clinic may very well serve for sixteen or twenty schools, with a school population of something under a thousand each.

"In order to start a school clinic all that is needed is to find some convenient building situated in the centre of the group, or as near this as may be. It is desirable, especially for small children, to have the clinic not more than twenty minutes' walk from any school. Greater distances are inconvenient, and much smaller distances highly desirable. The chief needs of a clinic premises are a large waiting-room, one or two rooms for consultation with the doctor, and a room for treatments and dressing by the nurse.

"A doctor should be in attendance at the clinic during school hours in the morning, and the head teachers of the schools served by the clinic should send to the clinic, in charge of the school nurse or other responsible person, all the children who are to have treatment. These children will be roughly the poverty group cases, but they will also include cases of discharging ears and other chronic ailments that need daily care, and which cannot be attended to at a hospital. The children sent to the clinic would be normally those examined by the school doctor, whose parents were recommended to get them treatment, but who failed to obtain it, on their own initiative, after a reasonable period, say a month. In some acute and urgent cases the clinic should render first aid, as it were, pending other arrangements, and the teachers should be encouraged to consult the doctor and send children to the clinic for examination in every case where there was uncertainty as to its condition.

"The clinic should be the organisation which sees that the child gets treatment. A large number of cases, those of ear, nose, and throat, many skin diseases, chest troubles, digestive troubles, and others, would be actually treated at the clinic. But the very severe ear case would be sent to hospital, the serious phthisis case to the sanatorium, and the serious bone tuberculosis case to the special hospital. The clinic, in fact, while acting as a treatment centre for those defects and diseases

which can be conveniently and economically treated in an institution fitted up in a simple and inexpensive way, would also act as a sorting centre, and draft off serious and special cases to the institution where their appropriate treatment could be obtained.

"The school clinic should work in the closest co-operation with the hospitals and dispensaries, and should have standing arrangements with them, whereby certain classes of cases could be sent direct to hospital from the clinic. Some of the arrangements made at present with hospitals for treatment would fit in well. This means in practice that the clinics would only need the simplest apparatus, and that for the complex cases the costly and elaborate hospital organisation would be made use of.

"The clinic should, in fact, become the instruction centre for parents in the art of hygiene, the concrete examples being provided by their own children's ailments. Such concrete hygiene teaching, supplemented, perhaps, by special demonstrations and talks for parents—on the care of the teeth, on breathing, and on feeding, for instance—would do more for slum districts and poverty spots than years of abstract lectures in evening schools, admirable as these are.

"Above all, the clinic must be simple, straightforward, and human. A laughing and a smiling child should be the rule. A solemn or a weeping child the exception. The doctors' and nurses' rooms should be places of happiness and kindness. In this way the confidence of child and parent will be gained easily, treatment will be facilitated, and the parents will try to obey and understand rules of treatment and hygiene."

Miss Betty Tanner, the five year old Californian heiress to £5,000,000, is known as the "sterilised baby," on account of the extraordinary precautions taken to ensure that her health should not be endangered. A mansion has literally been built around her near Los Angeles, a city of perpetual summer. The ground has been sterilised, and the same precaution has been taken with regard to every bit of material used in the building. The air that the baby breathes, her toys, food, and clothes are thoroughly antisepticated before they are allowed to reach her. How the little cage bird will flutter her wings once she is in possession of those millions!

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