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Editorial.

THE EXTENSION OF THE FRONTIERS OF LIFE.

What Pasteur has aptly described as the endeavour "to extend the frontiers of life" is the aim of the dispensary movement for the prevention of consumption, which is going on to-day in the United Kingdom, in France, Germany, and other countries.

On Monday last, the members of the Public Health Sectional Committee of the National Union of Women Workers had the advantage of listening to an address on this subject, from Dr. Girard Mangin, a distinguished medical woman, associated with Professor Albert Robin in his special treatment of Tuberculosis, at the Hotel Beaujon, and the Siegfried Robin Tuberculosis Dispensary, at Paris.

Dr. Mangin explained that the object of the dispensary method in every country is the same. To provide early treatment for cases of tuberculosis, for which purpose the dispensary is the necessary adjunct of the hospital, and other institutions for dealing with tuberculosis, the hospital, by itself could, she said, never cope with the disease. In order that the bread winner might be treated early, it was necessary, in conjunction with other societies, to provide assistance for the patients and their families during their time of need. The dispensaries were doing preventive work by attacking the disease in its early and curable stages.

Dr. Mangin explained that there are now dispensaries at Lille, Bordeaux, Marseilles (where a very complete one exists), Havre, Lyons, and other large towns. In France, the best treatment of tuberculosis was believed in, but a certain amount of exercise was now arranged.

Amongst other methods introduced in

Paris for combating tuberculosis, was the establishment of a course for nurses, already trained, who desire to specialise in tuberculosis work. She showed some admirable lime-light lantern slides, illustrative of her address. In Paris, the Assistance Publique are taking part in the movement, and with the resources at their disposal should be able to accomplish much.

Dr. Alice Salomon described the methods of fighting tuberculosis employed in Germany.

In regard to sanatoria their enthusiasm had to some extent vanished, they knew now that treatment in such institutions was only one out of many methods necessary for dealing with tuberculosis.

The object of organising dispensaries, was to ascertain if people were suffering from tuberculosis, and to secure medical treatment in good time. Last and most important was the isolation of patients, and their instruction in the necessity of a separate room, or at least, a separate bed for tuberculosis cases. If necessary, linen, food, and crockery were provided for patients, as well as soiled linen bags, in which the linen used was placed, and brought for disinfection. Dr. Salomon explained the system of compulsory insurance adopted in Germany. Although it had its disadvantages, no one in that country would be willing to revert to the time before it was introduced. It was a blessing to the whole country.

Miss McGaw, the newly elected Hon. Secretary of the Public Health Sectional Committee, gave an interesting account of the Dispensary system for the Prevention of Consumption in Great Britain. In combination these addresses furnished striking evidence of the fight against tuberculosis, which is being waged simultaneously in the various countries with good result.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)