

intelligent administration of the Insurance Bill.

#### THE EDUCATIVE VALUE OF SANATORIA.

DR. MARCUS PATERSON, Medical Superintendent, Brompton Hospital Sanatorium, Frimley, said that the major point in the sanatorium as an educator was the schooling of patients in the prevention of infection. Personally, he made a point of giving weekly lectures to the patients, telling them in simple language the nature of the disease, and the lines on which they were being treated. These talks were much appreciated, and the lecturer said he frequently heard from ex-patients of the practical use they had been to them.

Many patients had written comprehensive articles for various papers, and others had read papers before their friendly societies.

DR. J. J. PERKINS, Physician to St. Thomas' and Brompton Hospitals, also dealt with the sanatorium as a place of education. The pioneer of this use of the sanatorium was Dr. Arthur Newsholme, when Medical Officer of Health for Brighton, who took a block of 56 beds in the Borough Isolation Hospital as his sanatorium. Efficient teaching was the chief object. The open window, the infection by phlegm, its disinfection, the care of the flask or spitting cup, the correct mode of coughing to prevent the spread of spray, the dangers of promiscuous spitting from conversion of phlegm into dust, the mode of cleaning the consumptive's room and the dangers of dust are all enforced.

The operation of the scheme does not end with the discharge of the patient from the sanatorium. After his return to his home he is kept under surveillance by a band of workers, partly official, partly voluntary, to see that he carries out the lessons learnt in the sanatorium. Those who do are re-admitted for further rest and change when the strain of their work has proved too much for their health, but for the careless who have proved themselves unworthy there is no re-admittance. The sanatorium is thus made a reward for good conduct in the daily life of the consumptive.

#### HOME TREATMENT.

DR. EDWARD SQUIRE, C.B., Senior Physician to Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption, pointed out that under the National Insurance Bill approved societies might pay district nurses, whose advice might do much to improve the condition of the home. He asked, however, "Are these societies likely to provide such nurses after the passing of the Bill any more than they do at present, unless the Health Committees are empowered to compel them?"

Home treatment of consumptives could be

made really effective, especially if the patient had had the advantage of a few weeks in a well-organised sanatorium, where he had learned how to live to the best advantage to himself and to avoid danger to others; but the supervision found to be essential in the sanatorium must be continued in the home, and particularly so in the home of the working man. It was largely in this supervision that the success of the anti-tuberculosis dispensaries had been grounded. The visits of a tactful nurse often produced most beneficial hygienic improvements in the homes of the poor consumptives. Where did we find in the Bill any provisions for such home supervision?

Health committees as well as "approved societies" should be empowered to supply nurses for home visits.

Those consumptives who persistently neglected necessary precautions, to the danger of others, should be removed and detained in special institutions where they could be cared for and kept from infecting their families and neighbours or fellow workers; for this special powers would be needed.

#### OPEN-AIR RECOVERY SCHOOLS.

DR. RALPH P. WILLIAMS, Professor of Public Health in the University of Sheffield, said that the open-air school was found to be of value as a means of combating that condition of malnutrition and debility which, if left untreated, so often resulted in tuberculosis. In Sheffield a school providing accommodation for one hundred children had been converted for £700. Of the 98 children in the school 44 were cured, 51 improved, and only three were in the same condition after attendance. The school had an educative influence on parents and teachers as well as the children, and he suggested that a sufficient endowment should be provided for schools of this type in any sanatorium scheme. It was far cheaper to cure a child suffering from anæmia and malnutrition than to cure one definitely infected with the tubercle bacillus.

#### TUBERCULOSIS SCHOOLS.

MISS MCGAW described the work done in the school for tuberculous children recently opened at Kensal House, Harrow Road, under the London County Council, which is responsible for the educational side of the school, and provides the staff, equipment, and nurse; also the work of the St. Marylebone Dispensary, which has started a day camp in Regent's Park. The children meet at the Dispensary in the morning; the Dispensary nurse takes their temperatures; then they go to the Park and spend the day there, doing lessons, resting or playing, under the supervision of a teacher, whose salary is paid by the Charity Organisation Society.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)