

would soon learn how hopeless was such a task, and what misery they were apt to bring on the next generation.

Sir James Barr characterised the National Insurance Bill as one for the endowment of disease, its only redeeming point being the maternity endowment of a miserable thirty shillings. The health of a nation was its most valuable asset, and the preservation of health was the duty of every statesman, but with disease he had got no business, except on preventive lines.

CONFERENCE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, who presided at the above conference, said that the Medical Officer of Health could not do much unless backed up by intelligent and enlightened employers. Undoubtedly, the great need of to-day was to popularise interest in public health. The information contained in the reports of medical officers was in a large degree disregarded, although many of the facts which they contained were of general importance and wide application. He had often thought that great advantage would result when the Local Government Board of England, Ireland, and Scotland adopted the practice of publishing epitomes or abstracts from the various health reports which had more than a local interest. Whenever a community could be educated to understand that sanitary progress meant commercial progress the path of the sanitarian was made easy. The short but eventful history of tropical sanitation proved this.

DISINFECTATION OF SCHOOLS.

Dr. J. Coote Hibbert, M.D. (London), in the course of a paper on "Disinfection of Schools," said the experience of recent years had tended *more and more definitely* to put the dissemination of infectious disease to the charge of the human carrier of infection, and to show that inanimate objects played quite an unimportant part in this respect. That being so, any elaborate system of fumigating or spraying schools for disinfecting purposes had, for the most part, been given up, and greater attention had been paid to the exclusion from school of all children who might be carriers of infection. The great need at the present time was for more frequent and thorough cleansing of the schoolrooms with soap and water. Were this adequately carried out, and schoolrooms properly ventilated, there would be no danger of infection lurking in the premises.

THE SIXTH SENSE.

The Rev. Father Stafford read an interesting paper on what he described as "The Sixth Sense"—the sense of cleanliness. He approached the question from two standpoints. The first dealt with the individual—his duty to himself, and his responsibility to the body corporate, and the other, with the body corporate, which, having accepted responsibility, must recognise its duty to the individual.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, wife of the well-known author, has performed the qualifying flights, and been granted the pilot's certificate of the Royal Aero Club of Great Britain. As a partner in the Blondeau-Hewlett Aviation School at Brooklands, Mrs. Hewlett has (says a contemporary) taken her certificate in order to have a practical knowledge of the handling of an aeroplane, but it is not her intention to give exhibition flights or to fly professionally. She is the first woman of British nationality to obtain a pilot's certificate, and to reach a height of over a hundred feet. In the course of her training she flew hundreds of miles, either as pilot or passenger.

A full report of the proceedings of the National Conference on Lodging House Accommodation for Women, held in the Guildhall last May, which was reported at some length in these columns at the time, has been published by Messrs. P. S. King & Son. We commend the report to those interested in the movement. It is published at 6d. net, and contains papers by Lady McLaren, Mrs. Hylton Dale, Mrs. Mary Higgs, Alderman William Thompson, Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Dr. J. F. J. Sykes, and many others.

In the House of Commons last week, Mr. Leif Jones, Member for Rushcliffe, Notts., asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that his promise of facilities for a Women's Suffrage Bill next Session was being claimed exclusively on behalf of the Bill introduced this Session by the hon. member for North-West Manchester, and whether he would now state if the promised facilities would equally be granted to any other Women's Suffrage Bill which secured a second reading, and was capable of amendment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who replied, said that the promise referred to was given in regard to the Bill introduced by the hon. member for North-West Manchester and read a second time on May 5th, which appeared to the Government to satisfy the tests which they had laid down as the conditions for granting such facilities. One of those tests was that the Bill should be so framed as to be capable of free discussion and amendment. The Government clearly cannot undertake to give facilities for more than one Bill on the same subject, but any Bill which, satisfying those tests, secured a second reading would be treated by them as falling within their engagement. Mr. Lloyd George further said that the promise of the Prime Minister referred to any Bill which complied with the test which the Government had laid down, which was that it must be a Bill which was capable of amendment.

The two Houses of the Icelandic Parliament are to be congratulated on according the women of Iceland full privileges as citizens. They have

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)