

OUR FOREIGN LETTER.

THE WHITE SCOURGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

As several very interesting articles have appeared in your JOURNAL OF NURSING lately, anent the compulsory notification of tuberculosis in England, I thought it might interest you to know a little as to how we stand in regard to this disease in South Africa.

I enclose you a cutting from *The Cape Times* of a few weeks ago that will give you some idea of the extent and difficulty in combatting tuberculosis among so many races and over such a wide-spread area.

With our glorious climate, where it is possible to live at least nine months of the year out of doors, it seems disgraceful to think that tuberculosis should be rampant among us.

In Cape Colony it is chiefly among the "coloured people," or, in other words, the "half-castes," that it works such havoc. They are, as a rule, a weakly race, without the stamina of the purer races, either black or white, and their promiscuous way of living renders them peculiarly susceptible to this form of infection. Depending entirely upon them for all menial offices, both indoor and out-of-doors, tuberculosis among them means a fearful menace to the whole European race of this country. Where we have no workhouses, only the old law recognised of the younger generation supporting the older, you will often find three generations sharing a couple of rooms or a single hut, and if one member suffers from phthisis, and he perhaps the principal bread-winner, the risk of contagion, the poverty and misery is beyond description, and yet I regret to say there is not one Sanatorium for tuberculosis patients in the Union of South Africa.

In Durban the Municipality has started a "Tuberculosis Bureau," where they can get medical advice and medicine free of charge; they also have a Lady Health Visitor for district work.

In Cape Town tuberculosis cases have been notified to the M.O.H. for the last three or four years, and then kept under observation. Attached to the City Infectious Hospital they have a few chalets to accommodate between twenty and thirty patients for treatment, and one afternoon a week, by coming to the Health Department, they can have advice and medicine free.

A Lady Health Visitor has been appointed, who visits all notified cases at their own homes, and keeps in touch with them, when a number of necessitous cases are supplied with milk, medicine and disinfectants, at the expense of the Corporation, also all houses are disinfected after removal or death of tuberculosis patients in the city.

The Free Dispensary also gives one afternoon a week for tuberculosis patients, when they get medical advice and medicine free, and the poverty-stricken ones, milk or food. The General Hospital takes in a few cases, chiefly surgical, or hæmoptysis,

and the hopeless and homeless ones go into the workhouse hospital.

But the saddest part is the number of sick in their own miserable houses who cannot be moved for fresh air or treatment, for we have nowhere to send them.

I hope the day is not far distant when we may have a Sanatorium in every district of the Union, and that can only be done by the united efforts of the Government and local authorities, and no shirking of responsibility, from the one or the other.

What more fitting Memorial to King Edward VII. than the establishment of Sanatoria, where every race, caste and creed would benefit; renewed health and strength to the sick, succour to the dying, and protection for the strong and weak?

GREGORY.

BOVRIL.

GREAT SUCCESS OF SYSTEMATIC FEEDING EXPERIMENTS.

Presiding at the fifteenth annual general meeting of Bovril (Limited), held on Thursday, 8th inst., the Earl of Erroll said that the large sales that marked the close of the year 1910, and to which he had referred at the last meeting, had continued throughout the whole twelve months under review. This favourable result must be in a large measure attributed to the striking scientific confirmation of the food value of Bovril, disclosed by the systematic feeding experiments made with it by that eminent scientist, Professor W. H. Thompson, in conjunction with two other well-known physiologists. The experiments during the present year, which were conducted on human subjects, had given still more remarkable results, and had fully confirmed the tests of the previous year.

Dealing with the accounts, the Chairman said that the gross profit on trading amounted to £343,455, being some £47,000 more than the previous year, and constituted a record in their history. The balance of profit and loss account showed £160,314. This would enable them after paying an increased dividend on the deferred shares, to place £22,500 to reserve account, which would then amount to £212,500.

KEROL.

We have pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the offer made by Messrs. Quibell Brothers, Ltd., 161, Castlegate, Newark, to send samples of their guaranteed disinfectant, "Kerol," to members of the nursing profession on receipt of name and address, on the coupon which will be found on page ix of our advertisement pages.

"Kerol" is non-toxic, non-irritant, and non-corrosive and all these qualities should commend it to the attention of both nurses and midwives. It is specially important that the latter, whose work lies in the homes of the poor, where there are few utensils for use, should employ a disinfectant which possesses the above qualities.

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