

with other duties, such as inspecting. It was also asked whether it was desirable for an association to get outside help to assist with the nursing, while a nurse is giving lectures, and suggested that if a nurse is doing the whole of her own work she is unfit to give lectures; and that it is easy to get a willing horse to work, but that an overworked nurse is not always provided for when her health breaks down.

TUBERCULOSIS VISITING NURSING.

Miss C. Wills, Inspector under the Irish Branch Q.V.J. I., wrote a paper on Tuberculosis Visiting Nursing, which was read by Miss Raw.

The paper stated that before the famine in 1897, Ireland was very free from tuberculosis, but since then the death-rate from tuberculosis has been steadily rising. In 1907, the Women's National Health Association was formed to arouse public opinion, and spread knowledge which will promote the upbringing of a vigorous race. Working in conjunction with the medical profession, two specially trained Queen's Nurses were appointed in 1898 to visit hospital out-patients with symptoms of tuberculosis, and instruct them and their friends in the absolute necessity of cleanliness. They also traced out infected rooms, and distributed cards of simple instructions. At the end of the year, 274 families had been visited, the average weekly visits paid being 140; 175 sputum flasks were distributed. In 1909, a holiday home for women and children was opened at Sutton, and the 120 beds were always full, the majority of patients being recommended by Queen's Nurses.

We hope to deal in a future issue with the interesting paper read by Miss Lucy Glass, Assistant Superintendent of the Leicester District Nursing Association, on the organisation of tuberculosis nursing in that town.

Miss Pye, Secretary of the Tuberculin Dispensary at Portsmouth, described the work done there in connection with which fully-trained nurse health visitors are responsible for carrying out the details under the Medical Officer of Health. All cases ill enough to require daily nursing or additional health visiting are attended, and patients attending at the dispensary are given the day and time for their next visit so that there is practically no waiting, an arrangement which must be greatly appreciated. Nurses visiting in the homes teach the importance of washable pocket linings, the right disposal of sputum, &c. They make careful observations, report defects of sanitation, and during their visits advise "contacts" to come to the dispensary for examination, when, if advisable, they are treated with tuberculin.

In the discussion which followed, the question of the effect of tuberculin was discussed. Miss Pye stated that there is a small proportion of raised temperatures in "sensitive" people, but most patients do not have to stay in bed. The difficulty of keeping these cases in a Poor Law Infirmary after a certain time was discussed,

and the Chairman remarked that in the North Dublin Infirmary there is a special wing for tuberculous cases. She also pointed out the possible effect of attending dispensaries, especially on lodgers, some of whom were hounded out of their lodgings owing to the fear of infection.

SCHOOL NURSING.

Miss March, Inspector of Midwives at Carlisle, said that the Cumberland Nursing Association, in return for help given by the County Council, delegates a superintendent of district nursing to accompany the doctor at the medical inspection of schools. The local nurse also attends if possible. After the general examination, all throats are inspected. An inspection of heads is also made. In the case of dirty and verminous children, each parent receives notice, the nurse visits the homes without delay, notes as to the sanitary condition are made, and written reports sent in, Saturday morning being devoted to this. Homes are never visited before 9.30 a.m. or after 5 p.m. The school nurses prepare and sterilize the tongue depressors. Gardener's labels are sometimes used for this purpose, in which case a fresh one is taken for each child.

The school nurses have the entry of the homes wherever there are children, and the Cumberland Health Lecturers give 5 to 10 minutes' talk to the children in school hours.

In closing the Session Miss Hughes, said that the development of the work of trained nurses in reaching the homes of the people, as various Acts of Parliament were passed affecting the national health, is most interesting. What is being done in Great Britain is being copied in every other part of the civilised world. She strongly urged, however, that no real good would be done so long as unfit, irresponsible people are permitted to bring children into the world. The segregation of the feeble-minded, and their adequate supervision is of supreme importance.

SESSION II.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION VISITING.

Miss Ewens, Superintendent of the Kingston Nursing Association presented the first paper in the evening session, presided over by Miss Hughes, in which she plainly described the need for, and the duties and opportunities of a nurse as an Infant Life Protection Inspector. We propose to refer again to this paper in another issue.

SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS.

Miss L. Odell Carter, Superintendent of the Queen Victoria's Institute, Reading, described the organisation of the School for Mothers in that town, and said that practising district nurses could easily fill such a school from amongst their patients. The head of the school must be a good all-round person, with vast quantities of tact, and amongst her duties was the supervision of voluntary as well as professional workers. Schools for Mothers, elaborate or simple, had come to stay, and resulted in improvement in

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