

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

A most interesting and suggestive inaugural address in connection with the opening of the new Medical School was delivered by Professor Nietner, Secretary of the German Central Committee for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, who said that when the Central Committee was first established its efforts were mainly directed to the care for the still curable cases, the means for so doing being amply provided by the Invalidity Insurance institutions. But latterly the trend had become ever stronger towards prophylaxis. It is now also realized that prevention must begin with the child. This truth was practically ignored during the earlier history of the campaign against tuberculosis in Germany, partly owing to the fact that little was definitely known about the incidence of this disease in childhood, while the latent tuberculosis of infancy was almost an unknown factor.

The researches of the last ten years have brought to light facts that point to the conclusion that in a very large majority of cases infection occurs during childhood, and, indeed, in the first years of life. Dr. Hamburger declares that 90 per cent. of all children up to the completed twelfth year are infected. Dr. Schlossmann has gone so far as to say that tuberculosis is a true children's disease, is acquired during childhood, and must be prevented, treated, and healed during childhood. The fact stands beyond a doubt that in by far the greater number of cases the source of infection can be traced to the human subject's suffering from "open" tuberculosis, and that infection is acquired through the close intercourse resulting from family life within the walls of the home. Only those preventive measures can, therefore, hope for success which take this fact consistently into account.

THE WORK OF THE SCHOOL DOCTOR.

Professor Nietner denied that tuberculosis was a "school disease," and maintained that the school could not justly be held responsible for the spread of infection. He attaches the utmost importance to the careful organization of the school medical service in the battle against tuberculosis, and said that to the school doctor alone was the power given to prevent latent tuberculosis from developing into active disease in the children examined by him and kept under his watchful supervision. He said that with a complete State organization of school medical supervision the discovery and recovery should be possible of a large number of children, who might otherwise become later on a serious strain on the economic resources

of the nation through developing active tuberculosis during the wage-earning period of life.

The following is the form which the out-patient nurses are required to fill in for the information of the Medical Officer of Health:—

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

NURSE'S REPORT.

No. in Register Date
 Name Age
 Address Married or Single ?
 Occupation Has Patient changed Occupation ?
 Able to work full time ? Or part time ?
 If unable, confined to bed ?
 How long ill ?
 Situation of House (area, ground floor, 1st, &c.) ?
 Character of neighbourhood ?
 Number and Ages of Inmates ?
 Number and Description of Rooms (fireplaces) ?
 General aspect of House (clean, damp, dirty, smelly, verminous) ?
 Number of Windows ? Can they open ?
 Are they kept open—(a) by day ?
 (b) by night ?
 Have they always been kept open ?
 Does Patient sleep alone—(a) in bed ?
 (b) in room ?
 How is washing and drying of Clothes done ?
 How long in present House ?
 If has moved within two years, previous Addresses ?
 Have there been Illnesses or Deaths in House ?
 (a) in own time ?
 (b) in previous occupancy ?
 Exposed to infection—(a) at home ?
 (b) at work ?
 (c) among friends ?
 Present health of other members of Household ?
 What precautions taken to disinfect ?
 General Dietary (including Alcohol) ?
 General Condition (well-to-do, poor, destitute) ?
 Proximate income of Household ?
 Assisted by Societies, Church, Friends, Rates ?

REMARKS :

Signed

This is excellent training for nurses who are increasingly required by public authorities to furnish them with written reports, in the drawing up of which few nurses are adepts.

M. B.

SOCIAL SERVICE VALUED.

Miss Lillian D. Wald, Head and Founder of the Nurses' Settlement, New York (graduate of the New York Hospital), was called to Mount Holyoake College, in Massachusetts, October 9th (the oldest American College for Women), to receive the degree of LL.D., in recognition of her public work in nursing and social service.

In conferring the degree the President addressed Miss Wald as follows:—Lillian D.

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