

does not fear, and if lodging-house keepers only take care not to offend his nose, they are sure of his custom, though the germ should swarm all over their premises.

Whether the annual exodus really improves the health of the middle-class population is perhaps doubtful, as when in the country Medical men do not, as a rule, reap a harvest from this class of holiday maker. They bear all discomforts bravely: a limited water supply is no inconvenience for a month or two; imperfect sanitary arrangements and surroundings, irregular dieting and hours, are overlooked; the crowding of three or four persons in each sleeping apartment is nothing provided that it is done in the country.

Does this annual holiday, we might ask, lengthen life?

The tables of longevity give very little evidence upon the point. The average length of life is about two years longer than it was two generations ago, but nobody would claim that as entirely due to the fact that most of us take more holidays than our fathers did. All sorts of means, from the cheap loaf to the public school and the fever hospital, to say nothing of the ten hours day and the Saturday half-holiday, contribute to the greater length of life. But though the long annual outing may not appreciably add to the days of the people who all the rest of the year have comfort and luxury at home, it undoubtedly adds to the pleasure of their lives, and for this reason may be worth the cost which our forefathers would have condemned as a shameful extravagance.

Nobody who cannot well afford it has the right, for the fancied sake of health, to go very near to debt or to dissipate what should be compulsory savings by paying two rents instead of one; but people who can afford two rents are quite right to pay them.

If the payment does not do themselves much good, it does nobody any harm. The custom at the worst is a harmless one to those who have money to spare.

It cuts down bank accounts, no doubt; but saving money is not the whole end of life, and it puts colour and variety into what might otherwise be colourless and monotonous lives.

There is one result of the annual exodus for which we are not perhaps sufficiently grateful. It has largely increased the varieties of British costume, enlarged the industries which supply it, and given to the student of forms and combinations of colours a whole treasury of novelties.

The summer girl, if less remarkable in her wardrobe than the summer young man whom she enslaves, is very often like a moving conservatory. She is all the colours of nature, and a few more.

The young knight in Chaucer who was embroidered as a meadow would be a sober-looking creature beside her.

But in spite of all her eccentricities of dress, the summer girl, as a rule, contrives to make herself attractive. Her male companion, if not so brilliant, is often more striking. He is given to leaving his common sense, with the calves of his legs, behind him when he puts on his knickerbockers and goes forth for his outing. Tweeds of horse-cloth texture, and checks suggestive of allotments, are what he most affects. The newest fashion is to enclose fields of check within other checks of quite parochial extent, so that the gratified young man who wears them looks as if, like the British farm, his surface were laid out upon the seven shift principle. In spite of all, perhaps because of ignorance, the young man is happy, and so are his girl friends, and perhaps his tailor. He may look ridiculous, but if he does not feel so what does it matter? There is no standard in taste any more than there is a standard in art; and Sir Joshua Reynolds himself wore clothes which Ruskin would certainly put in the fire.

BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

THE quarterly meeting of the General Council was held on the 11th ult., at five p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, W. Among those present were Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Miss Stewart, Miss Homersham, Miss Ridley, Miss Mackey, and Miss Robertson, Drs. Gage Brown, C.M.G., and Wynn Westcott.

Sir James Crichton Browne was in the chair.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Miss Wood and duly confirmed.

Dr. Bedford Fenwick then read the Report of the Executive Committee as follows:—

"(1) Sixty-three Members have been elected since the last meeting, making a total membership to date of two thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

"(2) Various structural alterations have been made in the offices of the Association at the expense of the landlord, in return for which the Association has taken a lease on a three, five, or seven years' term. The premises will be much more convenient for the Members in future, and it is hoped, therefore, that they will make free use of the Reading Room.

"(3) Since the last meeting, five hundred and thirty-eight Trained Nurses have been enrolled upon the Register, making a total to this date of one thousand four hundred. There are yet

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