

A PUBLIC DUTY.

Guy's Hospital did a bit of really good work when in January of this year it compiled and issued the following leaflet to out-patients suffering from Syphilis—and it might well be adopted by other hospitals. The far-reaching danger to health of a person suffering from this terrible disease in ignorance cannot be estimated.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM SYPHILIS.

These instructions are given you both for your sake and to prevent danger of infection to others.

You are suffering from the disease called Syphilis, which lasts for at least two years, but which can be cured by long-continued careful treatment.

It is an extremely contagious disease, and you must therefore be careful not to give the disease to others by sexual intercourse, kissing, sleeping in the same bed, or by common use of table utensils, towels, toilet articles, or your pipe. Have your own razor, and shave yourself. Always burn all dressings which have been in contact with sores or wounds.

Unless you follow the instructions given, and continue the treatment for the necessary period, the disease is likely to break out again in some more important part of your body, so that you will run the risk of becoming permanently disabled. If in the future you are affected with any other illness, you should always inform the doctor that you have had Syphilis, as this knowledge may help him to cure you, even if you have had no symptoms for many years.

The treatment of your disease, to be successful, must be continuous. You will require to be under medical treatment and supervision, even though no signs of the disease are present for at least two years. It is likely that early in the course of the treatment the signs of the disease will have gone, and you will feel perfectly well; but nevertheless you must not neglect what you are told to do, or think yourself cured, until you are told that no further treatment is required.

During the treatment you must clean your teeth with a tooth-brush before breakfast and before going to bed. If your teeth are bad, have them attended to, but tell the dental surgeon that you have Syphilis, so that he may take precautions against catching the disease and infecting other patients.

Foods strongly spiced should be avoided; intoxicating drinks should be taken only if specially permitted. You should smoke as little as possible; it is better not to smoke at all for a time, as the irritation of the tobacco is likely to make your mouth sore. You must lead a regular active life, keeping yourself as fit as possible.

If you wish to marry, you must consult your medical adviser, for if you marry before you are cured, you will convey the disease to your wife or husband, and to your children.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Considering the valuable work done in the past and now being carried on at the Royal Institute of Public Health, 37, Russell Square, W.C., for the benefit of the public, under the direction of Professor William R. Smith, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S. Ed., the Principal, that work is deserving of the greatest publicity, and it was a happy thought to invite representatives of the Press to inspect the new Lever Museum, for which the funds were provided by Sir William H. Lever, so that they might learn something not only of the Museum, but of the work of the Institute in general.

To this little group of journalists Professor Smith related in the most interesting way the history of the Institute, its aims, and the scope of its work. It was originally founded in 1886 to promote legislation to make the Diploma in Sanitary Science, granted by various Universities and Corporations—then of negligible value—a registrable qualification by the General Medical Council, and by good statesmanship secured the incorporation of this provision in the Medical Act of 1886, and under the Local Government Act 1888 it was further provided that the possession of a Diploma in Public Health (D. P. H.) should be compulsory on all seeking to hold office as a Medical Officer of Health to districts of 50,000 or more inhabitants, which meant that thenceforward there was to be at the head of every Public Health Administration in the Kingdom an officer carefully trained and fully qualified in the specialised work which lay before him.

The statutory recognition of a Sanitary Inspector's qualification under the Public Health (London) Act of 1891 is also due to the influence of the Institute, and in 1909 the Institute instituted an examination for women Health Visitors and School Nurses, and it should be noted that, by a General Order of the Local Government Board issued in 1909, candidates for Health Visitors' appointments in the City and County of London must, unless otherwise qualified, produce a certificate of competency from a recognised examining body of which the Institute is one.

The Lever Museum is a most fascinating collection, beautifully arranged, of the micro-organisms connected with the more important infectious diseases. It demonstrates the typical growth of the microbes, and the biological characteristics leading to their identification. Nurses could not fail to be interested in this wonderful collection, or to get a clearer idea of their work from a study of the specimens.

The bacteriological and chemical laboratories of the Institute are at the disposal of public bodies, medical practitioners and private persons for research work. It is interesting to know that it is now possible to determine whether blood stains are of human origin. Formerly experts could

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