

Joking apart, the net result of the decision of the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London to ignore the just complaint embodied in the nurses' resolution, is to give *carte blanche* to the committees of the constituent hospitals, forming the Central Hospital Council for London, to use, unquestioned, money entrusted to them for the sole benefit of the sick poor, to finance any political campaign against workers who protest against their autocratic rule.

That is the position in a nutshell.

And we have no hesitation in stating that it is a very scandalous abuse of power, which will no doubt, be noted by the rapidly increasing number of people who are of opinion, that it is the duty of the State to provide an adequate medical, nursing and hospital service for the community, unbiassed by patronage and prejudice.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the eighth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, evidence was given by Sir William Thompson, Registrar General for Ireland.

He said that as a cause of deaths venereal diseases played relatively a small part in Ireland. The death rate from syphilis and allied diseases was 0.78 per 10,000 of the population, whereas the figures for tuberculosis at the head of the list were 21.52 per 10,000.

Compared with previous years, the deaths from syphilis and general paralysis of the insane appear to show a tendency to increase, but Sir William Thompson thought that much of the increase was more apparent than real, and was due to the more careful recording of deaths.

The greater part of the deaths from venereal diseases occurred in the two cities Dublin and Belfast. In Dublin the figures were abnormally high, the death rates from syphilis and general paralysis of the insane being about twice those for London.

On the whole the incidence of venereal diseases in Ireland was very much lower than in the rest of the United Kingdom; the syphilis death rate was only that of England and Wales, while with regard to infant mortality the number of deaths due to syphilis per 1,000 births in the three Kingdoms were England and Wales 1.29, Scotland 1.4, Ireland 0.59.

"VAPOROLE" TINCTURE OF IODINE.

The use of tincture of iodine as a first field dressing in recent warfare has abundantly demonstrated its antiseptic value as a powerful, penetrating, comparatively non-toxic germicide. "Vaporole" Tincture of Iodine as prepared by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome presents a pure 3 per cent. Tincture in a hermetically sealed container. By breaking the point of the container the contents are allowed to saturate the surrounding absorbent material and the product can be

used as a swab. By this means, fresh tincture of iodine, free from deterioration products likely to cause irritation, becomes instantly available for sterilising the skin of operation-areas, for use upon wound surfaces of all kinds, and as a First-Aid application for injuries received in workshops, factories, stables, and so on. "Vaporole" Tincture of Iodine, perfectly stable and portable, and ready for immediate use, is issued in containers of 20 minims packed in boxes of six; and in containers of $\frac{1}{2}$ fl. oz., packed singly, each being enclosed in a wooden protecting tube.

THE INDISPENSABLE GAS FIRE.

A competent hostess prides herself on making her guests feel at home and comfortable, and there is no surer way than by furnishing the bedroom assigned to her so that she can use it as a writing room if she so desires. So many people now-a-days have so large a correspondence, or more, literary duties, that this is a much appreciated boon. If a gas fire is installed this is quite easy in the cold weather, when absolute quiet in the general living rooms cannot always be secured, and the convenience of such fires is so great that the only wonder is that wherever gas is available they are not generally installed as part of the necessary equipment of a bedroom. They save labour, they are available at any moment, and need not burn a minute longer than they are wanted. They often avert an illness, and they are invaluable when illness occurs.

A USEFUL AGENT IN PEDICULOSIS.

Although the reports of school medical officers from all over the country record a marked improvement in the personal cleanliness of the children, verminous conditions of the head are still too common. A treatment that has been adopted with excellent results by a large number of education authorities is on the following lines:—

The hair is cut short and the head thoroughly washed with Izal bar soap. After a good drying the hair is moistened again with 1 in 200 Izal, which is left to dry on the hair. Afterwards the hair is combed out daily with a small tooth comb. The Izal treatment should be repeated every four days until no nits remain. It may be mentioned that Izal has proved very effective in ringworm, and two obstinate cases where it effected a cure were reported by Sir Dyce Duckworth in the St. Bartholomew Hospital Reports (Vol. 38, p. 155). In this connection Izal should be applied constantly as a lotion, at first 1 in 100, and later increasing in strength until nearly pure Izal is tolerated.

A large number of cuttings this week report suggestions to municipalise the voluntary hospitals. Miss Lucy Ashby, R.B.N.A., considers it the only means by which nursing conditions of work and pay can be placed on a just basis.

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