

individual appointments made within the terms of the statement to be reported to the Board, but it shall be the duty of the Clerk to the Guardians to inform the Board of every case in which a vacancy remains unfilled for a period exceeding six weeks.

ARTICLE 7.—Every person holding, on the date of the operation of this Order, the office of Superintendent Nurse shall continue to hold office upon the same terms and conditions, and, except in the case of a person holding that office in an institution to which Article 2 of this Order applies, shall perform the same duties, as if this Order and the Poor Law Institutions Order 1913, had not been made.

ARTICLE 8.—Nothing in this Order shall apply to a separate institution which is provided wholly for the reception and maintenance of—

(a) children, or

(b) persons suffering from disease of body or mind.

ARTICLE 9.—This Order shall come into operation from and after the Thirty-first day of March, One thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

ARTICLE 10.—This Order may be cited as the Poor Law Institutions (Nursing) Order, 1913.

Given under the Seal of Office of the Local Government Board, this Thirtieth day of December, in the year One thousand nine hundred and thirteen.

JOHN BURNS, *President*.

## ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the ninth meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, which was held on the 15th December, evidence was given by Mr. J. Ernest Lane, Senior Surgeon of St. Mary's Hospital and of the London Lock Hospital and a member of the Royal Commission.

Mr. Lane said that in his opinion venereal diseases are attended by just as great a mortality as tuberculosis or cancer and although it was not possible to obtain figures to support this view it was one which had been more or less frequently expressed by well-qualified persons. He thought that the diseases were somewhat less prevalent than twenty or thirty years ago, but on this point it was very difficult to speak with certainty; the statistics of deaths certified as due to syphilis did not give any idea of the prevalence of the diseases.

Mr. Lane said that although large subscriptions are given to the cause of combating other diseases nothing has been done with regard to venereal diseases, and public money has never been expended except in carrying out the Contagious Diseases Acts. He laid stress on the necessity for improved and free hospital treatment and said that every patient suffering from any form of venereal disease ought to be entitled to gratui-

tous treatment and medicine and to bacteriological and other tests. If it is desired to cure syphilis and get rid of the disease anything that would aid early diagnosis ought to be at a patient's disposal without expense to him.

In any scheme for the efficient treatment of the diseases, the establishment of night clinics was essential.

On the subject of notification, Mr. Lane said that though he had formerly been in favour of notifying all cases of venereal disease to the sanitary authority, he had now modified his view because he was convinced that notification would deter sufferers from seeking proper advice and would lead to increased recourse to quack treatment.

Dealing with the question of the education of public opinion with regard to venereal diseases, he said that in the first place the infected person must be instructed. It should be made compulsory for medical practitioners to supply to every patient suffering from venereal disease, printed instructions as to the nature of his disease and as to the measures he should adopt to avoid spreading the trouble; copies of these instructions should be supplied gratuitously to the doctors.

Secondly, he would suggest that all institutions where there are a large number of employees, or institutions such as colleges and universities, ought to have some course of lectures explaining the dangers of venereal disease.

It was also of the greatest importance that the standard of knowledge of these diseases in the medical profession should be raised; in the past the teaching given in the medical schools was very inadequate, but steps were now being taken in some of the more important hospitals which should lead to an improvement in this respect.

Mr. Lane gave some statistics of the work done at the London Lock Hospital. He showed that during the last thirty years there has been a remarkable diminution in the numbers of prostitutes treated at the Female Hospital; at the present time the majority of the female patients were very young girls and 13 per cent. of the patients were married women. All the cases in the Children's Wards and the greater part of the married women were examples of innocent syphilis. In the Male Hospital the new Out-patient Department opened in 1911 had proved most satisfactory and the number of attendances was increasing; a new In-patient Department was opened in November last with three wards perfectly fitted with all modern accommodation for 40 patients.

At the tenth meeting held on December 19th Dr. Stevenson, Superintendent of Statistics to the Registrar-General of England and Wales, attended and gave evidence supplementing that which he gave at the first meeting. Dr. Stevenson said that though the statistics tabulated from death registers by the Registrar-General cannot be claimed to afford any measure of the absolute amount of mortality from venereal disease, they do throw light in varying degree upon its relative

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)