

which suggested that out of 625 cases of blindness 325 were traceable to venereal disease.

Mr. Cross considered that the importance of venereal diseases was only realised by a very limited number of people, and he thought that the medical profession ought to instruct the public. It should be pointed out that any of these forms of disease were not local things which would pass off, but that the individual might be stamped for life with it and that it might go down to his or her posterity. It was necessary that the knowledge should be spread very tactfully, but it ought to be done.

Mr. Cross alluded to the importance of early diagnosis and energetic and satisfactory treatment of these diseases and urged that some assistance should be given by the State. He did not think that the Insurance Act touched this matter at all. The doctor under the Insurance Act could not be expected to make a scientific investigation, and neither he nor the chemist could afford the expense of injections of salvarsan.

Laboratories in which tests can be made for purposes of diagnosis should be subsidised and developed, and grants should also be made to assist treatment by hospitals. He was not in favour of special hospitals for venereal diseases, but thought that persons suffering from them should be treated among the ordinary patients as far as possible. It ought to be made easy for people to get thorough treatment for these diseases and it would be an advantage if evening clinics could be established in suitable situations to deal with them.

At the thirty-second meeting Dr. C. T. Parsons, Medical Superintendent of the Fulham Poor Law Infirmary, gave evidence.

#### DR. PARSONS.

Dr. Parsons described the treatment he had adopted which follows the lines of that used at the Rochester Row Hospital. Salvarsan or neo-salvarsan has been used at the Fulham Infirmary since April, 1911. The experience has been that most lesions heal very rapidly under its influence; the results have been most striking in cases of acquired syphilis and have been less successful in the case of congenital syphilis, while only temporary relief of symptoms has been obtained in the case of parasyphilitic conditions. On the whole neo-salvarsan has been found to be better tolerated, but less efficacious, than salvarsan.

No bad results of a serious character have followed the injections.

The only difficulty in carrying out the treatment has been in inducing patients to submit to it and to remain until it is completed. A few patients refuse to have any injection after the first, and some insist upon taking their discharge directly the lesions have healed.

Dr. Parsons said that one of the greatest needs of the Poor Law Infirmary in connection with the treatment of venereal diseases was the provision of facilities for bacteriological examinations and the carrying out of Wassermann tests.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

Queen Alexandra has chosen Wednesday, June 24th, for Alexandra Day, and it is her Majesty's express wish that no flower seller should be under sixteen years of age. To avoid imposition each authorised seller will have an official card and a locked box. Let us hope the hospitals will greatly benefit by the collection, and that the expenses of organization will be materially reduced—hitherto they have in our opinion been unnecessarily high.

The foundation stone of the Queen Mary Hostel and the Associated Laboratories of the new buildings of the Home Science Department, King's College for Women, University of London, which is to be placed on a fine site in Campden Hill, will be laid by H.R.H. Princess Christian on Thursday, May 7th, at 3.30 p.m. The main object of this Department is to provide a thoroughly scientific education for women on the principles underlying the whole organisation of home life, the conduct of institutions, and other spheres of civic and social work.

At a meeting of the Boarding-out Committee of the Blackburn Board of Guardians Miss Wilkinson presented the annual report of her work as infant protection visitor, assistant relieving officer, and visitor to boarded-out children. After pointing out that 107 children were nursed "for reward" during the year—the highest maximum in the Union since the Children Act came into operation in 1908—Miss Wilkinson declared that there was still room for improvement in the nursing of young babies. "Some nurses" (foster mothers), she observed, "are still of opinion that bread porridge is best for them. Some of them certainly look well, but this unnatural way of feeding young babies is injurious to them later on. There is an improvement in the bathing of children; nurses are not so nervous of putting them into the water as they used to be. The majority of the nurse-mothers are good to teach, and are quite willing to receive instructions; others are careless and indifferent. Their one idea is to keep the baby quiet at whatever cost to the child's future."

Miss Wilkinson's report showed that some of the children out at service were doing remarkably well, and looking up the old children it was encouraging to find them saving money and making homes.

### WORD FOR THE WEEK.

There must be established schools for fathers, so that they may study the problem of a healthy coming race.—*Miss Mary Murdoch.*

The greatest thing philanthropy has to do is to make itself unnecessary.—*Principal Forsyth.*

Keep your face towards the sun; and the shadows will fall behind you.—*Whitman.*

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