

the lecture was of seasonable interest, the invitation was general to all nurses and health workers.

Mrs. Hugh Lupton in the chair ably explained to any non-members present the "Aims" and "Methods" of the Union, and said she "hoped to see the Leeds Branch promoting by co-operation the effectiveness of the profession, and through it the good of the community."

The lecture will cause all who heard it to "kill that fly." Also it will be a lesson for months to come, as it can be passed on to patients and others. It is hoped the benefits will be far-reaching.

June 24th was the date of Mrs. Doran's garden-party. Those able to accept the invitation spent a most enjoyable afternoon in the lovely grounds of the City Hospital, Seacroft. Tea and refreshments were served under the shade of the spreading trees. Some were content to sit and enjoy the perfect day, the more energetic occupied themselves with croquet. "Bandy," the Yorkshire terrier, had on her lace collar and felt very much one of the party.

After tea the guests visited the Sanatorium. Men, women and children looked very happy. The latter gay in hair ribbons, which they said were "tied in French bows." The poultry farm came next for a visit, and the record of chickens and eggs for consumption in the hospital is the record of an expert. The members tender their best thanks to Mrs. Doran for her kindness in giving them such a pleasant time.

THE BATH BRANCH.

By the kind invitation of Miss Keene, Matron, a meeting of the Bath Branch was held on June 26th, at Winsley Sanatorium. About forty members were able to be present. The journey from Bath was made in motor torpedo char-a-bancs, and the lovely drive was thoroughly enjoyed.

The guests were received at the Sanatorium by Miss Keene, who conducted them to "The Temple," which is the patients' recreation room. but the weather was so glorious the patients were all out in the grounds. When the business meeting was over Dr. Crossley, Tuberculosis Officer for Wiltshire, gave a most instructive address on tuberculosis. Dr. Crossley enumerated the duties of a Tuberculosis Dispensary Nurses. This was especially appreciated by the members, as many of them have thought of taking up this work.

At the conclusion of the address hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Dr. Crossley, to Miss Keene and to the Secretary. Miss Keene then invited all to go over the Sanatorium, but before doing so a delicious tea was served on the croquet lawn, and the members thoroughly appreciated the strawberries and cream and all the nice cookies so generously provided.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held at 15, Somerset Place, Bath, by the kind invitation of Miss Manning.

The paragraph from Taunton will be inserted next week.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the forty-first meeting of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, evidence was given by Dr. J. Smith Whitaker, Medical Member and Deputy-Chairman of the National Health Insurance Commission (England), and a member of the National Health Insurance Joint Committee.

Dr. Whitaker explained the working of the panel system, and said that an insured person suffering from venereal disease was entitled, as part of his medical benefit, to receive medical attendance and treatment, and to be supplied with necessary medicines and appliances, exactly in the same way and to the same extent as for other diseases. As a matter of fact a large number of cases of venereal disease were being treated by panel doctors. It might be said generally, that the position of the insured, as regards the adequacy of the treatment which they received when suffering from these diseases, did not differ substantially from that of the ordinary population when under the care of general practitioners, and in cases requiring treatment by specialists both sections of the population stood exactly on the same footing. In certain cases a person might, under the Insurance Act, be allowed to make his own arrangements for treatment, and this would cover the case of treatment by an unregistered practitioner. The number of Insurance Committees who had permitted arrangements of this kind was, however, very small indeed, and it was not likely to become common.

With regard to sickness benefit (*i.e.*, periodical payments made to the insured person whilst rendered incapable of work by some specific disease), it was possible for an Approved Society to provide by its Rules for the withholding of this benefit in cases in which the sickness was caused by the insured person's own misconduct, and this applied to many cases of persons suffering from venereal disease. It was the usual practice, and had been for many years, for societies to class venereal diseases as diseases caused by misconduct.

Dr. Whitaker said that the Insurance Commission had no special information regarding the extent to which doctors might need facilities for laboratory methods as an aid to diagnosis, but if facilities were afforded, practitioners attending the insured could be required to take all steps in their power and within their competence, with a view to obtaining the benefit of such assistance in the treatment of their insured patients.

Looking at the future, Dr. Whitaker thought it was very important that provision made for the treatment of particular diseases or particular groups of persons should be looked at not only from the point of view of those diseases or those persons, but from the broad point of view of the relation of that part of the administration to the whole body of treatment by medical pract-

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