

THE CARE OF THE SCHOOL CHILD.

The introductory lecture of the course on "The Care of the School Child" was given by Cyril Cobb, Esq., Chairman of the Central Children's Care Subcommittee of the L.C.C. Education Committee.

Mr. Cobb said that there were too many organizations, both voluntary and official. The State had a consuming passion for inspection. The tendency was, both as regards symptoms and individual members of a family, to specialise, which course led to much overlapping.

Some of the objects that the Care Committee had in view were the Provision of Meals, Medical Inspection, Juvenile Employment, Country Holidays, Evening Classes, and Recreation Centres. It often happened that one family would be visited by several voluntary workers, each intent on their own particular subject. These "Family Friends" should be well qualified in all branches of the work, so that when visiting for one specific purpose they could at the same time acquire much useful knowledge about other members of the family. He would like to see one person fussing about several things rather than several persons fussing about one thing.

One thing that the Briton was profoundly interested in was eating, and the great cry was to feed the children, but the public did not know what a small element lack of sufficient food happens to be. It was easy enough to get the parents to accept food for the children, but medical treatment was another matter. Medical inspection was compulsory, the treatment voluntary.

All children were medically examined three times during their school life, and when noticeably ailing. It was the work of the Care Committee to persuade and advise the parents to carry out the treatment and suggest when it should be by private, hospital, or home treatment.

Dental centres for young children were to be aimed at. It was difficult to convince parents that dental caries was the little foxes that spoil the vine. An enormous percentage of children needed treatment in this direction, as also for the provision of spectacles. It had been shown that it was not the countries that were possessed of highly scientific organizations that had the lowest infant mortality rate, but where the devotion of the mother was greatest. Nothing could replace parental duty, and it was the work of the Care Committees to re-awaken and stimulate the mother responsibility.

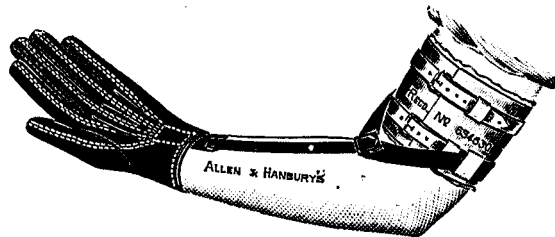
In the discussion following a teacher complained of the false economy which left the school windows uncleaned, whereby the children's eyes suffered from strain. In regard to the difficulties connected with providing the children with spectacles, it was remarked that London was covered with children wearing them.

The Queen has graciously accepted the first Joan of Arc charm. These charms are designed in commemoration of Joan of Arc Day, May 8th.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

EXTENSION GLOVE FOR CASES OF MUSCULO-SPIRAL PARALYSIS.

The glove here illustrated, designed by Mr. H. S. Soutar, M.B., M.Ch.Oxon., F.R.C.S. Eng., is intended to replace the paralysed extensor muscles, maintaining the extended position of the hand and fingers, and the relaxation of those muscles which is essential to their recovery. The illustration of the glove, which is made by Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., 48, Wigmore Street, W., and is quite inexpensive, shows its purpose admirably, as described by its designer. "A leather armlet above the elbow is connected by an adjustable leather strap to the wrist of a stout leather glove. Inside the glove elastic bands pass from the wrist to the top of each finger. These bands pass through washleather loops, which maintain them in position, and they are



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so adjusted in tension as to just maintain the extension of the fingers. The effect of the whole is that when the flexor muscles are relaxed and the hand is at rest the fingers are completely extended, and the wrist is slightly dorsiflexed. On contraction of the flexor muscles the fingers and wrist can be flexed, and the hand used in an almost normal manner. An important feature is the increase in power of grasp produced by the extension of the wrist. The glove has great advantages over any form of flexed apparatus, for it allows perfectly free movement of every joint and does not interfere with the balance of walking.

BOVRIL FOR STARVING DUBLIN.

The rebellion in Dublin has afforded one more illustration of the well-known value of Bovril in emergencies. The loyal forces took over the great Bovril warehouse in Eustace Street and thousands of pounds' worth of Bovril and Virol were placed at the disposal of the Military Authorities, who distributed them among the starving poor.

Father Joseph Bertram, a devoted priest who was for 23 years in charge of the leper settlement in Japan, which was started by Father Testevuide in 1888, has died. For the last three years he had been ailing, and his last request was that he should be buried in the lepers' graveyard.

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