

THE TYPHUS MENACE.

Mr. Balfour, in the name of the Council of the League of Nations, has issued an appeal to the various Governments for the immediate provision of £250,000 of the £10,000,000 needed to enable the League to deal with the growing menace of typhus in Poland and Eastern Europe. As yet says Mr. Balfour, the appeal has met with but scant success.

In addition to the claim of humanity the letter states "if the plague be allowed to spread unchecked from Russia into Poland, it will assuredly spread from Poland to her western and southern neighbours. In Central Europe every circumstance—moral and material—favours the disease. A population weakened by war and famine is living in conditions which, even were it vigorous and well fed, would make resistance to infection difficult or impossible. As infection spreads it becomes harder to deal with, and no European country, not perhaps even an island like Great Britain, can count itself wholly safe if Poland be allowed to succumb."

In this connection the *Times* reminds us of the danger of lice.

The menace of typhus is great or small in any community according as the louse population of that community is great or small. Happily, the Medical Officer of Health for London has laboured indefatigably to reduce the pest. Last year 2,031,735 children were examined. Of these, 459,396, or nearly half-a-million (that is nearly 25 per cent.), were found to be verminous. The growth of the danger during the war is seen from the numbers of children brought to the cleansing stations. The following table is important:—

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO CLEANSING STATIONS.

Years.	Children.
1913-1916	45,711 (Average.)
1917	80,755
1918	95,033
1919	105,639

There are now 25 cleansing stations in London. Last year nurses examined 566,178 children, and 33,222 of these were verminous. In another examination, made last Christmas, when every child attending school was examined by the nurse, 110,787 were found to be unclean. The efforts being made are coping with the problem, but Dr. Hamer is of opinion that "the recovery from the set-back due to the war is not yet complete." Thanks to the use of a special shampoo and comb, the hair can now be cleansed without cutting it.

Happily, there is no typhus fever in London at present. But with so much to be done in the direction of cleansing we cannot regard ourselves as safe. If infection were to come the parasites are ready to spread it.

NURSING ECHOES.

Until the end of the year THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING will be supplied on preferential terms to members of self-governing nursing organisations, resident in the United Kingdom, if 8s. 8d. is sent for an annual subscription to the Manager, BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.1. This privilege cannot be guaranteed beyond that date, owing to increased postage and further increase in the cost of printing, paper and production. Every nurse, therefore, who values a professional organ in the press should become a subscriber, and persuade at least one colleague to do likewise, so that an ever wider circle of trained nurses may interest themselves in the work of the General Nursing Council, their governing body, and in the uplifting of the nursing profession. The Council meetings (soon to be resumed) are reported in this Journal by a highly qualified professional woman, and the more sympathetic interest nurses take in its work, the greater the encouragement will be for the Council to effect the beneficial reforms anticipated by Parliament.

Moral: Read the *B.J.N.* and keep up-to-date with professional affairs.

We note that County Nursing Associations and their officials are very busy pressing young women to undergo the short nursing training they have set up for village nurses, and that glowing reports of such work is alluded to as an "excellent career in the nursing profession." Now, these nurse-midwives with their few months' training, are not qualifying for the "nursing profession"—as in the near future it will be the duty of the General Nursing Council to reconsider the organisation of curricula which will qualify well-educated girls for passing a State examination, and to guarantee them as thoroughly trained and efficient registered nurses. This cannot be accomplished in a few months. As far as we know the County Nursing Committees are composed almost entirely of titled and socially prominent women, who have no knowledge whatever of nursing education, but who have assumed the responsibility of defining it—so far as their poorer neighbours are concerned—and who are, we regret to say, convinced that they are much more capable of exercising this authority than any trained nurse can be. We fear many young women are being misled. It may become necessary at no distant date for the Ministry of Health to issue a plain state-

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