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## EDITORIAL.

### THE INVESTIGATION OF HEALTH PROBLEMS.

The practice of nursing in this country is second to none, but we have much to learn of the science upon which that practice should be founded from our American colleagues. According to the medical correspondent of a contemporary, the same holds good in regard to medicine. The support which research, and endowment for its maintenance, receives is not comparable in the United Kingdom to that accorded to it in New York.

Take first the Rockefeller Institute. While it has not achieved the name either of the Pasteur Institute in Paris or of our own Lister Institute, it has immense financial resources and an unrivalled *personnel*. It attracts the most eminent European and Eastern scientists and psychologists, whereby the Western world is the richer and the Eastern the poorer.

American millionaires have learnt that the acquisition of knowledge is the best of all investments, but our own prefer, for the most part, a more material exchange for their wealth, so that medical practitioners in this country whose genius or taste inclines to research have to choose between following their inclinations and comparative poverty, and the beaten track of medical practice and an income sufficient for reasonable comfort.

Besides the Rockefeller Institute there is the Cornell University Medical School, where Professor C. R. Stockard has for long investigated the results of parental alcoholism in guinea pigs, particularly in relation to the vexed question of whether the racial effects are more marked in the children or the grandchildren. Then there is the problem of venereal disease, which the American Social Hygiene Association is attacking scientifically along the lines of compulsory notification and

treatment of both sexes, which our contemporary commends as the only method along which success will be attained, and without which it is impossible.

Another development commended to our notice is the Life Extension Institution under the Presidency of Mr. W. H. Taft, which is learning how to prolong maturity by the study of those errors of habit which "harden the arteries and beckon towards the tomb."

Then there are three questions concerning which information should, we are told, be sought, from the Health Commissioner of New York City, Dr. Royal Copeland. What decisions have been arrived at concerning the best use of the hospitals emptied by prohibition? What is the further record of the great clinic for drug victims closed in March of this year because prohibition had put an end to the manufacture of "dope fiends"? What are the exact figures of the diminution of pulmonary tuberculosis and other "diseases of darkness" since the total prohibition of the burning of soft coal? These are all extremely interesting questions from the health point of view which merit close attention.

### A CHAIR OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE.

The authorities of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in this country are appealing to the heads of industry for the endowment of a Chair of Industrial Medicine. The duties of the holder would include on the one side the investigation of all trade diseases, and the discovery and investigation of the special diseases leading to the loss of working hours, also the effect of fatigue on workers and their efficiency. On the other hand his duties would include the instruction of students in this branch of medicine. We congratulate the authorities on so important and progressive a step. Six of such chairs have been established in the United States of America.

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