

HEALTH WEEK.

The Health Week Committee appointed by the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1, announces that Health Week will this year be held, under the patronage of His Majesty the King, and Her Majesty the Queen, from October 9th to 15th. The Lord Mayor of London is Chairman, and Professor A. Bostock Hill, M.D., M.Sc., D.P.H., Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The object of Health Week is to focus public attention for one week in the year on matters of health, and to arouse that sense of personal responsibility for health, without which all Public Work, whether by the Government or Local Authorities, must fall far short of its aims. It is proposed that the dominant idea for 1921 should be "Health, Happiness and Efficiency," and the consideration of what each individual can do for himself and his neighbour in securing a healthy life.

AIMS.

The immediate purpose of Health Week is to make health during the week the chief topic of public concern; to secure the recognition of the fact that disease is a thing which can and should be prevented; to impart sound information as to public and personal hygiene, and to build up a public opinion which will not tolerate a high disease rate or excessive infant mortality, and which feels as a personal reproach the sight of an ill-nourished or neglected child.

Its ultimate object is to set up a high ideal of health and to bring to all that zest in life which only perfect health can impart.

The way in which Health Week has been received and the interest which has been aroused wherever a well considered programme has been carried out, show that it meets a widely felt need. People *want* to know how to be healthy, they are surprised to learn how simple the laws of health are; and there can be no doubt that the celebrations have already been productive of widespread and lasting good.

PROCEDURE.

The manner in which Health Week is observed in each district must necessarily be determined by a Local Committee, but efforts should be made to bring members of every class and profession into line with the specific health work.

To inaugurate the proposal a public meeting may be called, and at this meeting the objects of the movement should be briefly and clearly explained, and a representative Committee and Officers appointed to define and organise the work to be done during the week. The interest of the Mayor or Chairman of the Health Authority and Officers of the Public Health Department should be secured in promoting the meeting, and the Executive Committee in London will (as far as possible) help by suggesting speakers to explain the work.

LOCAL COMMITTEES.

The Local Committee should, as far as possible, comprise representatives of every public body and private society which is in any way concerned with health, and of every agency which plays an important part in moulding public opinion. The following in particular should be invited to nominate members of the Committee:—The Local Health Authority; The Local Education Authority; The Board of Guardians; Local Societies dealing with health, education, housing, the prevention of tuberculosis, schools for mothers, etc.; the Clergy of all denominations; the Press; the Medical Profession, Military Medical Officers; the Nursing Profession; the Teaching Profession; the Friendly and Co-operative Societies, Guilds of Help, and other bodies having influence with any considerable section of the community.

The co-operation of trained nurses in the promotion of Health Week is invited, and we feel sure will be accorded, for none know better the need for the promotion of a higher standard of health.

LEGAL MATTERS.

In the course of the proceedings at the Marlborough Street Police Court on April 25th, when Dr. Starkie, Medical Officer to the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and a Metropolitan Police Surgeon, was committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court on charges of performing illegal operations on women, the nurse whom he employed stated that she was a Jewess, and that she was born somewhere in the English Channel, her father being a Russian and her mother English. She said that from 1909 to 1913 she secured a general nursing certificate, and one for sick room cookery. She was not a certified midwife. During the war she worked in hospitals as a tuberculosis Sister. Under cross-examination she denied that she had been asked to leave a place where she was employed; she resigned. She did not resign because she knew she was going to be asked to leave. She emphatically denied that she was dismissed from attending one lady because she was drunk; she was practically a teetotaler. She denied having told Mrs. Starkie that she would ruin her husband, but admitted that she wrote to the police in July, but sent them no documents.

Mr. Frederick Palmer characterised the nurse as a "vicious, vindictive woman who was trying to get her own back on this doctor because she had been summarily discharged."

The next Session at the Central Criminal Court opens about September 6th.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

A SAVING GRACE.

A sense of humour is a most saving grace and its possessors escape thereby many ridiculous situations.

The good lady who inscribed upon an egg which she left at hospital, "Justified by faith," was evidently not richly endowed in that particular.

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