

various essentials of a good mixed diet, with some explanation of the necessity of the three vitamins, and of the foods containing them. Vitamin A column was coloured pale yellow, to convey the idea of cod-liver oil, butter, and egg yolk; vitamin B column was brown, to represent whole-meal bread, rice huskings and marmite; and vitamin C column green, to suggest fruit and vegetables.

A collection of garments suitable for European children in the tropics had been carefully prepared as a result of many years' first-hand experience, and this exhibit was greatly appreciated by European mothers. The domestic hygiene section included an admirable first-aid box made by a Chinese carpenter, containing special remedies suitable for Malayan conditions, as well as the usual ones for cuts, burns, sprains and the like. Demonstrations in Malay, Chinese and Tamil were given several times a day by the health visitors, on such points as how to bathe a baby, the washing of a bottle, making of albumen water, pasteurisation of milk, and the proper way to wash out an infant's eye. Besides these demonstrations, the health visitors and European sisters who were on duty did invaluable educational work by their continual explanations.

A baby show was held one morning during the exhibition, nearly 200 entries, of whom by far the greater number were Chinese and Tamil, being received. Malays required much persuasion to bring their children, and it was considered quite a triumph that about 30 Malayan babies took part. Some of the infants came from distances as great as 20 or 30 miles, being collected in ambulances by the health visitors. The judging was carried out in seven groups, each group having its own two judges, one of whom was a doctor. The champion baby was selected by all the judges from among the first prize babies, a Chinese infant being chosen. Among seven pairs of twins a Cingalese pair was finally chosen for the championship, but two other pairs, one Chinese and one Malay, who had been entirely breast-fed by their mothers, received consolation prizes. Only two prizes in each nationality, under and over six months, were given, and many mothers of splendid babies who won no prizes were greatly disappointed. In some cases this has caused an unreasonable bitterness against the infant welfare centre, and it seems questionable whether it is desirable to continue holding baby shows on a large scale now that the interest in infant welfare is permanently established in the country.

POOR LAW REFORM.

The Ministry of Health have issued as a White Paper the Government's proposals for the reform of the Poor Law. These have been communicated to local authorities with the intimation that they are purely revisional, devised to enable local authorities to offer constructive suggestions of a concrete kind. Under the proposals boards of guardians will be abolished, and their powers in regard to the setting to work and relief of the poor, the apprenticeship of poor children, emigration, and vaccination will be transferred to county and county borough councils.

So far as London is concerned, apart from the general proposals, it is intended that the Metropolitan Asylums Board will cease to exist and be transferred to the London County Council.

At present there is much overlapping in such matters as hospital administration, and it is considered very necessary that there should be one authority which could survey all the health needs of an area, and to which the Poor Law institutions could be transferred.

Legislation on Poor Law reform will probably be deferred until next year, so that there may be ample time for discussion. Considerable controversy is likely to be aroused.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales recently visited the "Star and Garter" Home for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers, Richmond, Surrey. Naturally the stricken men were delighted to see him, so sympathetic and charming as he always is.

We are glad to note that the Prince of Wales has sent a message of encouragement to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, of which he is Patron, which has been issued with the report, the message concludes:—

"It will indeed be a splendid achievement on the part of this generation if the terrible scourge of leprosy can be stamped out in the British Empire for ever."

Whitehaven Castle was opened as a hospital on January 22nd by H.R.H. the Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles. She had a great reception in the town being met at the station by the Mayor and Town Clerk. At the hospital which is a very picturesque and scientifically adapted place, the Princess was met by the deputy Matron and staff, and after declaring it open she made a tour of the beautifully decorated wards, and spoke graciously to many of the patients to whom it was a red letter day. During her visit to the town Princess Mary received purses from school children, and placed a wreath on the War Memorial before returning to Lowther Castle where Her Royal Highness and Viscount Lascelles were for some days the guests of the Earl and Countess of Lonsdale.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York has graciously consented to become President of the South London Hospital for Women, Clapham Common.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London has awarded grants to the magnificent amount of £302,000 to hospitals and convalescent homes for 1925.

Large sums have been given to hospitals for the erection of Nurses' Homes, amongst them to the East End Mothers' Lying In Home, the Metropolitan Hospital, the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Women and Children.

Middlesex Hospital has received £20,000 towards the reconstruction scheme. The London Hospital gets £14,625, Guy's Hospital, £12,500. About £82,000 has been raised in the year, but the greater part of the gifts are from investments, which is sound finance.

Mr. Austin Taylor has been appointed chairman of Westminster Hospital, in succession to the late Sir Edward Pearson. He has an intimate knowledge of the work and policy of the institution. A late member of Parliament, and an excellent man of business, the Westminster Hospital is fortunate in securing his services.

The Annual Report of the Medical Research Council 1924-1925, recently issued is a fascinating document, and shows the year under review was notable for important developments in many branches of medical science—the discovery by Dr. Gye and Mr. Barnard of the virus of cancer being the most important—but the whole field of what may be termed the new bacteriology proves that we are standing on the threshold of a new "underworld" of disease. We advise every nurse to study this "fairy story."

Mrs. Sarah M. Grove-Grady has left nearly £100,000 to societies devoted to the care of animals. Splendid! May much of their undeserved suffering be alleviated.

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