

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE HOUSING OF THE NATION.

We have only space in this issue to call attention very briefly to the important book on the above subject by Lieut.-Colonel F. E. Fremantle, M.P., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., D.P.H., with a Foreword by the Minister of Health, published by Philip Allan & Co., Ltd., Quality Court, London. As trained Nurses know the importance of this question cannot be over emphasised.

RHEUMATISM, ITS CAUSES AND PREVENTION.

A Chadwick Public Lecture was given on Thursday March 3rd, at the Barnes Hall, Royal Society of Medicine, on Rheumatism—Its Causes and Prevention. Dr. Carey Coombs, Physician of the Bristol General Hospital was the lecturer, and Sir William Collins, Chairman of the Chadwick Trustees, presided. The lecturer said Rheumatic Infection is a disease of childhood. Its chief forms are heart disease, joint inflammations, chorea, and nodes under the skin. Of these the first is by far the most important. All parts of the heart are attacked; not only the muscle, but also the serous coverings including the valves. A summary was given of the tissue changes and of the progress of this form of heart disease. Its incidence is declining, but it is probably responsible for over 10,000 deaths per annum in Great Britain. A consideration of the causes of this infection appeared to point to poverty, urbanisation, and damp dwelling-houses as responsible for favouring the admission of casual streptococcus into the body. The Lecturer discussed the part played by the tonsils in the initial stage of this infection, and the advisability of removing them from the rheumatic child. In his summary of the steps to be taken for prevention of the disease, he laid stress on the need for co-operation between all branches of the medical profession.

Dr. Carey Coombs illustrated his lecture with lantern slides, pictures and charts.

SYPHILIS NOT CAUSED BY VACCINATION.

The New York correspondent of *The Times* writes that Surgeon-Generals M. W. Ireland (U.S. Army), E. R. Stitt (U.S. Navy), and H. S. Cumming (U.S. Public Health Service), the three highest Medical Officers in their several branches in the United States, have issued a report in which they state that "false statements are being circulated that have caused some people to believe or fear that vaccination against small-pox may cause syphilis," and that "since the activities under our charge furnish direct evidence in refutation of this idea we have considered it our duty to issue a statement that syphilization as a result of vaccination does not occur."

NURSES OF NOTE.

MISS ISABEL MAITLAND STEWART, B.S., M.A., R.N.,
Professor of Nursing and Health, Teachers College,
Columbia University.

Miss Isabel Maitland Stewart was born in Canada, and taught school for three years before entering for training in the Winnipeg General Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba. She graduated in 1903 and spent about four years in supervision, private nursing and visiting nursing before entering Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, in 1908. Miss Stewart was appointed in 1909 as Assistant to Miss Nutting in the Nursing Department, and at the same time continued as a student receiving her B.S. degree in 1911, and her Master of Arts degree in 1913. She was appointed instructor in 1910, assistant professor in 1917, associate professor in 1923, and professor on the Helen Hartley Foundation in 1925 on the retirement of Miss Nutting.

Miss Stewart's special interest has been in the training of teachers for Nursing Schools. She has been closely associated with the work of Nursing Organizations in the United States and was for several years Chairman of the Education Committee of the National League of Nursing Education, which has published the "Standard Curriculum" and many other publications. As a pupil of and co-worker with Miss Nutting it is to be expected that her interest, capacity, and enthusiasm in connection with this most important subject should be great.

Miss Stewart is the author of a number of pamphlets and articles in Nursing journals and has collaborated with Miss Dock in the preparation of the Short History of Nursing. She attended the Conference in Copenhagen in 1923, convened by the International Council of Nurses at the same time as a Meeting of the Executive Committee, and also the Congress in Helsingfors in 1925, when she was

appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education of the International Council of Nurses.

Miss Stewart's professional life has been largely dedicated to the task of applying the principles which have been found to be sound and true in education in the broader sense, to the nursing field also. It is told of her that "with characteristic thoroughness she prepared herself for her work, and, having done so, with equally characteristic generosity she set herself to prepare others. The essence of her thinking found expression in her admirable courses in the Teaching of Nursing Principles and Methods. In these she demonstrated her own ideal of a teaching that, while clear and positive, should at the same time enrich the mind and touch the imagination."

Our best wish for her is that her term of office at Teachers' College may be as happy and fruitful as that of her predecessor and friend.



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