

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The second report of the Royal Commission on Local Government, which was appointed in February, 1923, has now been issued. It may be obtained from the Stationery Office, Cmd. 3213, price 1s. 6d. net.

The Minister of Health has decided to make provision, through the Metropolitan Boards of Guardians, for the treatment by radium of poor persons suffering from uterine cancer. A centre for its treatment by radium, containing accommodation for eight patients at a time will be provided at the North Western Hospital by the Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District.

The Statistical Report of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, on the income and expenditure for 1927 of 136 hospitals within 11 miles of St. Paul's, states that, notwithstanding the burden of taxation and the trade depression through which the country is now passing, the total income of these 136 hospitals rose from £3,041,000 in 1926 to £3,241,000 in 1927. The chief increases are in voluntary gifts, which now come to 1½ millions; in the amount contributed by patients towards the cost of their maintenance, and in legacies. In addition to this maintenance income, the hospitals received £188,000 for endowment and £896,000 for building, the total receipts during the year being thus no less than £4,325,000.

Dr. Graham Little, M.P., speaking at a meeting of the Marylebone Division of the British Medical Association, expressed the view that "in any system of future co-ordination the voluntary hospitals should take the lead, and it should be a cardinal principle of that co-ordination that the control shall be of a voluntary and not of a bureaucratic character. In order to ensure the persistence intact of the voluntary system, it is necessary," he said, "not only to secure a voluntary medical staff, but, still more important, a voluntary lay management, and I personally think more importance is to be ascribed to the voluntary lay management even than to the voluntary medical staff."

The Health Committee of the League of Nations has, as reported by the League correspondent of the *Times* at Geneva, received first-hand information on the epidemic of dengue fever in Greece, by Dr. M. B. Mackenzie, of the League's Health section, who has just returned from that country.

There have been over 850,000 cases and 1,372 deaths, but the trouble appears to be coming to an end. A letter of thanks from the Greek Government to the League Health organisation asks for the collaboration of that body in the sanitary reorganisation of the country. The Health Committee has declared its willingness to accede to this request, subject to the approval of the Council of the League, and proposes that its President and permanent Vice-President, together with Sir George Buchanan and Professor Léon Bernard, should hold themselves at the disposal of the Council of the League and of the Greek authorities.

With regard to dengue, the Committee asks the Medical Director to enlist the co-operation of entomologists in carrying out a mosquito survey of Mediterranean countries, in view of the importance of obtaining fuller information than is at present available on the distribution and prevalence of *aedes aegypti* (the mosquito transmitting dengue) in such countries.

The Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1928 has been awarded to Professor Charles Nicholle, the Director of the Pasteur Institute in Tunis, in consideration of his work in connection with typhus. Professor Nicholle placed humanity in his debt by his work on the part played by lice in carrying typhus fever from patient to patient.

NURSES' ORGANISATIONS.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The Annual Meeting of the Grand Council of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain will be held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Street, London, W.1, on Friday, November 30th, at 5 p.m. Members of the Council are asked to note the date and to keep this free.

A Conjoint Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Montreal Sub-Committee of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain was held in the Board Room of the Registered Nurses' Association, 39, Portland Place, London, W.1, on Tuesday, October 16th, at 3 p.m. In the absence of the President, Miss H. L. Pearse, Hon. Secretary, was voted to the Chair, and read a letter from Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, in which she asked Miss Pearse to place her regrets at being unable to attend before the meeting—the first time for twenty years.

On the motion of Miss Cox-Davies, it was agreed to send a message to Mrs. Fenwick of thanks for her letter and regret for her absence and the reason which occasioned it.

A letter from Miss Jean I. Gunn, Chairman of the Committee on Programme, which had previously been forwarded to the Members of the Committee, was then read and carefully considered, together with the Proposed Programme for the Congress of the International Council of Nurses in 1929.

Miss Gunn concluded her letter with the words: "The Committee on Programme would welcome any criticism or any suggestion. The object of the Committee is to prepare a Programme helpful and acceptable to all the members of the International Council of Nurses, and will appreciate any assistance you may be able to give to make this possible."

The Committee on Programme has invited Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, as Founder of the International Council of Nurses, to preside at the first Evening General Session, on Tuesday, July 9th, and to make the concluding speech of the closing session on Saturday, July 13th. Mrs. Fenwick has accepted to take the chair at one General Session but intimated that she prefers not to be placed twice on the programme. Chairmen and Speakers nominated by the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain are:

General Sessions.

"University Schools of Nursing," Miss A. Lloyd Still, C.B.E., R.R.C.; Miss D. K. Graham, F.B.C.N.

"The Nurse as Citizen," Miss S. A. Villiers, F.B.C.N., or Miss R. Cox-Davies, C.B.E., R.R.C.

"The Scientific Method in Social and Health Work," Miss S. A. Villiers, F.B.C.N.

"The Need for Publicity in Nursing," Miss G. Cowlin, R.R.C., or Miss M. S. Rundle, R.R.C.

Meetings of Sessions.

"Trends and Developments in Vocational Nursing," Miss M. A. Gullan.

"Legislation as Related to Nursing," Miss E. M. Musson, C.B.E., R.R.C.

"Developments in the Public Health Field," Miss H. L. Pearse, F.B.C.N.

"Developments in Private Nursing," Miss Isabel Macdonald, F.B.C.N.

Round Tables.

"The Public Health Nurse and Social Work." Chairman, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews.

"Maternal Care." Chairman, Miss K. V. Coni, Matron, Hull Municipal Maternity Home.

"Community Organization for Health Work." Chairman, Miss H. L. Pearse, F.B.C.N.

Speaker, Miss H. Viney.

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