

mentary school, where the children, and especially those of the poor, pass several consecutive years of their existence; that one can most easily organise the preventive struggle; firstly, because the scholars are there subjected to collective discipline and secondly, because school age is the most important period in the development of the individual. We have shown what can be achieved by rational heliotherapy in our simple open-air school for predisposed children. The same results could be achieved, and much more easily, with normal children.

At lower altitudes elementary schools, established on the same lines, might render valuable services during the fine weather period, in the preventive struggle against tuberculosis. The cost would be slight and the advantages obtained for the health of the children incalculable. Poor children, who have so little opportunity to profit by the sun in their homes, would be the first to benefit. Three or four hours a day of lessons in the open air and sunshine, when the weather permits, would make up for the bad influence of home life in poor surroundings and in highly unfavourable health conditions.

There is nothing Utopian in these proposals.

In Switzerland for several years already Dr. Francken, of Begnins, has applied them in a most interesting manner and with complete success. In many villages in his district he has introduced the air and sun-bath method in elementary schools, and the results have from the beginning, been entirely conclusive.

If, by judicious use of the air and sun-bath, we can restore and strengthen the children's health, it is not undue optimism to believe that in regenerating the body we may also cure the soul.

A regulated, disciplined, and busy life in the open air and sunshine withdraws the child's mind from many mischievous ideas. At the "sun school" he learns to read in the book of nature; as his body grows stronger, intelligence awakens, character is strengthened and the soul uplifted. Moreover, the return to a kind of life more in conformity with nature is incompatible with many bad habits which tend to ruin the organism, physically and morally. The simple and hygienic existence which we recommend develops in children the healthiest tastes, the most noble and manly aspirations. The bodies of our children, bronzed by the sun may be likened to temples built by a master hand, but true beauty and harmony will not be theirs unless they are illuminated by the highest qualities of heart and mind. Applied to childhood, the sun-cure will become a paramount factor, not only from a therapeutic and prophylactic point of view, but also socially, because it can pave the way for generations physically and morally both healthier and stronger than our own.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

HOPE OF A CURE FOR LEPROSY.

A very hopeful report was presented at the Annual Meeting of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Fund, held at the India Office on Friday, February 24th, when Lord Chelmsford presided and said that, as a result of the surveys undertaken by Mr. Frank Oldrieve, the Secretary, in a 16,000 mile tour, branches of the association had been established in various parts of the Empire, and in India a great fund had been established for the furtherance of leprosy work there.

Sir Leonard Rogers, the Hon. Medical Secretary, said there was the most complete evidence that the early cases of leprosy could be cured. They now had a cheap, painless, and efficient remedy in "alepol" (sodium hydno-carpate) at a cost for a year's treatment of under half-a-crown per case. The association had sent out over 100,000 doses in the last few months, and would far exceed that number this year. In a very few years most of the British Possessions

affected would have their own supply of the oil. In countries sufficiently advanced to carry out the simple plan of examining the households and close contacts of all lepers every six months for five years, 80 per cent. of probable infections could be detected and cleared up in the early stages.

A CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.

A Central Council for Health Education has been formed on

the initiative of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, to advise and assist local authorities on the education of the people in health matters. In this way it is hoped to avoid the overlapping and waste of effort at present resulting from the multiplicity of health organisations. This is specially desirable, as under the Public Health Act of 1925 municipalities are empowered to engage in health education work, and these receive innumerable offers of assistance from voluntary bodies, so that co-ordination is imperative.

There will be represented on the Council, of which Professor H. R. Kenwood is the first chairman, local authorities, education committees, insurance committees of England, Wales and Scotland, the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and other bodies. The co-operation of friendly societies and approved societies under the National Health Insurance Act will also be invited in the promotion of health education.

A representative of the Ministry of Health will attend meetings of the Council in the capacity of observer, and Mr. G. S. Elliston has been appointed general secretary, and Mr. T. Crew, organising secretary.



SUN AND WORK CURE.

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