

time to ask employers to spend some of it on their welfare work.

To a nurse suited temperamentally to work of this kind there is opportunity, in this comparatively new opening, for a useful and satisfactory career. It is very individual, as its success or otherwise depends largely on the nurse herself. We know several who find it very satisfying, and are very happy and content with their chosen career.

"AT HOME" AT THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

On April 16th, Mrs. Lancelot Andrews, F.B.C.N., and Miss S. A. Villiers, F.B.C.N., members of the Council of the British College of Nurses, gave a charming "At Home" at 39, Portland Place, London, W. The tables were beautifully decorated, the cakes and ices delectable, and the service admirable. The geniality of the hostesses set everyone at ease, and old friends and new agreed that they had had a most happy and pleasant afternoon.

These "At Homes" promise to be a very popular part of the activities of the College, and thereby Fellows and Members come into personal touch with their President, Officers and Council.

On May 16th, Miss A. M. Bushby, F.B.C.N., and Miss M. S. Cochrane, R.R.C., F.B.C.N., will be "At Home" at the College and invited guests are anticipating a very pleasant time.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Sir Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P., who presided at the Opening Session of the Annual Conference of the Central Association for Mental Welfare at the Central Hall, Westminster, on the morning of April 25th, said that the occasion was one of much importance in their work, for the Local Government Act, for which Mr. Chamberlain was responsible, had now come into force. It was an Act which would enable the difficult problems of mental deficiency to be dealt with in a way never yet possible. It would bring unity into all services, and would enable the mentally defective to be dealt with by one and the same committee.

The Minister of Health, who addressed the Conference, said that he believed the new measure of local reform would have a far-reaching effect on the work of dealing with mental deficiency and he did not feel any anxiety.

Dr. A. F. Tredgold, who opened a discussion at the Afternoon Session (at which Sir Frederic J. Willis presided) on the report of the special investigation carried out by Dr. E. O. Lewis on behalf of the Joint Committee of the Board of Education, and the Board of Control on Mental Deficiency, claimed that the whole problem must be considered in its entirety, and not piecemeal, he said this was the view taken by the Mental Deficiency Committee. He regarded it as most unfortunate that the Government Departments concerned should have required the report to be divided into two sections dealing with children and adults respectively, and that the part dealing with adults should not have been published. Considering the answers given to questions in the House of Commons regarding this matter, they could not help feeling that some mysterious influences were at work in some place or other to delay, or even prevent, its publication. If this were so it was a grave matter. Quite apart from the time and labour which had been devoted to the subject by the committee as well as the not inconsiderable public expense which had been incurred, it seemed to him a most extraordinary thing that it should be possible to hide from the country the carefully considered opinions and recommendations of an independent committee on such an important subject.

He very much doubted whether the public authorities who were charged with the duty of providing for these defectives, whether Parliament, and whether the country, would tolerate such an autocratic procedure, which was so totally at variance with our national ideals and reputation for integrity.

THE NEED OF A STANDARD FOR PURE MILK.

Sir George Newman, presiding at the Conference of the Certified Grade "A" Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers' Association at Reading University, said that good houses, sound drains, a sufficient and pure water supply and obedience to the laws of nature and hygiene were increasing, but the foundation of public health was the nutrition of the people. They all believed, too, that one of the fundamental elements in the nutrition of the human species was the consumption of milk. The only way to obtain a satisfactory national milk supply was by laying down a standard, and by asking milk producers of the whole country to raise their standards accordingly. It had been said that what was wanted was a good milk supply for everyone, and not a superfine milk supply for a few. As one responsible for the national health he wanted more and better milk drunk by everyone, but that could not come about until pioneers had created public opinion for the setting up and maintenance of a standard.

THE DANGER OF INFECTED CREAM

A report by the Medical Officer of Health of the London County Council on the outbreak of paratyphoid fever which occurred in London and its neighbourhood last July has just been issued. Suspicion fell on cream, abundantly supplied from one service to the areas affected, and which had been consumed by the majority of the patients:—Thus "X" receives his supplies of cream from Ireland, Holland, and an English company. The cream from Ireland is said to be pasteurized at the place of origin, and is re-pasteurized by "X." The Dutch cream is effectively sterilized before dispatch to this country at a higher temperature, viz., 200 deg. F., than that specified as necessary for effective pasteurization, and was not re-pasteurized by "X." It is customary for the English cream to be pasteurized on the company's premises, but it was only treated at a low temperature for a short time, and the method generally of pasteurization did not appear altogether effective.

Assuming that this cream was the cause of the outbreak, and bearing in mind that there is no evidence that it was infected either during the process of mixing or distribution, the question naturally arises as to which of the three sources of supply, viz., Dutch, Irish, or English, was implicated. On this point the following significant facts are submitted:—

(a) The Dutch cream was at no time discovered to be contaminated, and there is no evidence whatever to show that it could have been a causative factor in the outbreak.

(b) The English and Irish creams were both found to be grossly contaminated with B. Coli in various samples taken immediately on arrival at "X's" premises, over three weeks after the infection most probably occurred, viz., July 7th, and before they had been repasteurized.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RHEUMATISM.

The Duke of York, Chairman of the British Red Cross Society, presided at its half-yearly meeting at St. James's Palace, S.W., when a satisfactory report was presented to the Council.

The report states that the principal event of the year was the initiation of the campaign against rheumatism, which was undertaken at the instance of members of the medical profession and of the approved societies. The

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)