

outrageous proposal. We spend millions on a Ministry of Health—let us hope under a new Minister we may secure better value for our money.

#### THE SUNLIGHT LEAGUE.

The Sunlight League is doing useful work and we are glad to note that an anonymous friend has sent a cheque for £500, and that it is solvent. Speaking at the fourth annual meeting, Dr. Leonard Hill said open-air was equally important as light. The practice of immobilising infants in perambulators, so that the mother or nursemaid might get on with her enjoyment, needed alteration. Children from birth upwards should have the full use of their limbs and play naked in the air and light.

Dr. Hill demonstrated the apparatus for measuring the ultra-violet rays which reach us from the sun. Twenty-one towns, he said, had accepted the apparatus, and daily records appeared in the *Times*. He said that they should have the same strength of rays in Kingsway (which was  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ) as they had in Margate (14). The rays in London were cut out by smoke pollution. Comparison with Dr. Owen's wonderful apparatus for testing smoke pollution had shown the close relationship between that and ultra-violet rays.

#### A USEFUL SCHEME OF INSTRUCTION.

Mr. John F. Marshall, M.A., Director of the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island, announces that, in view of the fact that the ordinary tourist can neither distinguish a mosquito from any other two-winged insect, nor recognise certain obvious features which differentiate mosquitoes which carry malaria and other diseases from those which cannot do so, the British Mosquito Control Institute has initiated a scheme of monthly instructional courses (of two or three days' duration) for the purpose of supplying the elementary knowledge required. The results have proved that the necessary information (e.g., the methods of distinguishing mosquitoes from other insects and among themselves; the examination of suspected collections of water and their subsequent treatment when larvæ are found; the destruction of hibernating mosquitoes, and so on) may thus be easily acquired. These courses are primarily intended for the convenience of tourists who have no time (or no inclination) to make more than a brief acquaintance with the principles and practice of mosquito control work.

#### NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS OF POOR PERSONS.

A letter drawing attention to the urgent need of improved facilities for the treatment of poor persons suffering from nervous or mental breakdown of a type which does not constitute insanity, and signed by Sir Maurice Craig, Chairman of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, has been sent to all county and county borough councils, chairmen of public health committees, medical officers of health, honorary branch secretaries of the British Medical Association, members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and to certain relevant societies and individuals in England and Wales.

#### THE BRITISH EMPIRE LEPROSY RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Robert G. Cochrane, Medical Secretary to the Mission to Lepers since 1924, has been appointed Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, which was formed six years ago under the patronage of the Prince of Wales for the purpose of eradicating leprosy within the Empire.

The French Government intend to initiate at Geneva negotiations with a view to an international convention permitting of regular measures being taken to counteract influenza epidemics.

Mme. Curie, the discoverer of radium, has been presented with the freedom of Glasgow.

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

No hospital in the world has such a lengthy history of dealing with pulmonary diseases, and diseases of the heart and chest, as the Brompton Hospital for Consumption—and at a Dinner recently held at the Mansion House, at which Lord Derby presided, in aid of a special appeal for £100,000—Sir Philip Sassoon, M.P., hon. treasurer announced that £17,353 had been subscribed that evening, included in that amount being £1,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Rice, £500 from Sir Joseph and Lady Duveen, £500 from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mond, and £350 from Mr. and Mrs. Louis Baron.

The Brompton Hospital has a high reputation for efficiency in all departments—the nursing of the patients being specially skilled and considerate. We wish the appeal success.

Lord William Cecil (Chairman of the Queen's Hospital for Children), and Mr. Thomas Young (Chairman of the Little Folks' Home at Bexhill), write to the Press:—

"At the Little Folks' Home, Bexhill (branch of the Queen's Hospital for Children. President, H.R.H. the Duke of York), we have 36 children under the care of a sister and five nurses. The sister seldom gets to bed before midnight, and is up at 6.30 every morning. She finds it practically impossible to take any time off duty, and so hardly ever goes out beyond the grounds of the home. Another nurse would make all the difference between virtual slavery and merely hard work for this devoted woman, but there is not room for any addition to the staff. In cases of isolation the nurse on this duty has to sleep in the same room as the patient. The three female servants share one bedroom, and have nothing but the kitchen for rest time. At the same time there is most pressing need for more beds for patients who now have to be denied the advantages of the home for want of room. For the sum of £1,800 we could dispel these difficulties by building a house adjoining the present premises to provide six staff bedrooms and "sunlight" wards for eight children (four boys and four girls), with the necessary equipment of bathrooms, etc. A good opportunity here offers for a permanent memorial of a most beneficent character at a moderate cost. The plans are ready; the nurses and children are waiting. Who will do this good thing?"

The Middlesex Hospital is held in high estimation by the public. A little while ago we were told it "was tumbling down"; now we are pleased to know "it is going up," and the sooner the £400,000 still required is to hand, the sooner it will reach the required height and be completed.

At a luncheon recently held in support of the Hospital, Sir Herbert Morgan said:—

"The Middlesex Hospital stood not only for the care of the sick in the neighbourhood. Patients came from all over the Kingdom and from all parts of the Empire. Besides being a hospital, it was a great medical school, a great research centre, and a great training centre for nurses. Medical men were being poured out in a continuous stream for the service of the English-speaking people; nurses were being trained for work in all parts of the Empire and in all places where British enterprise was to be found. At present the hospital supplied nurses for the British Hospital in Venezuela. In addition, the hospital was sending out new knowledge which could only be obtained by the right men being given the right equipment, and that equipment was very expensive.

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