

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH.

What are we doing for the physical development of youth? Evidently not what is necessary to keep in the front rank as a nation of athletes, to judge by records of public games. No doubt since games are no longer pure sport, but are often played on a commercial basis, the psychology of the average Englishman fails to respond, although individuals prove to possess magnificent staying power.

But to judge from the average youth, we need drilling and drubbing. How seldom we meet a young man in a day's walk who carries himself erect, who brushes his shapeless garments, or places his feet squarely on the path? When drill and discipline evaporates in peace prattle, schools for physical development will be absolutely necessary

effective in many areas, the financial crisis compelled a slowing down of expenditure on all health services. Expressed in figures, the results of the first year's working may seem disappointing, but statistics are not a conclusive test of progress and much preparatory work has been done which will be reflected in the figures for subsequent years. . . . In the whole area covered by the Lancashire Mental Hospitals Board not a single voluntary patient was admitted into any public mental hospital, and even in London the beds available for voluntary patients outside of the Maudsley Hospital were quite inadequate to the needs of the population. But in the areas in which the Act was energetically worked the number of voluntary and temporary patients admitted was substantial, and in one area the patients in these two classes amounted to nearly 45 per cent. of the total admissions during the year.

In the case of private patients the voluntary and temporary admissions exceeded those admitted under certificate. The fact that in the first year of working it was found possible to deal with such a high proportion of cases under the Act is most encouraging and goes far to vindicate the Board's estimate of the proportion of admissions which will ultimately be dealt with.

Need for Increased Accommodation.

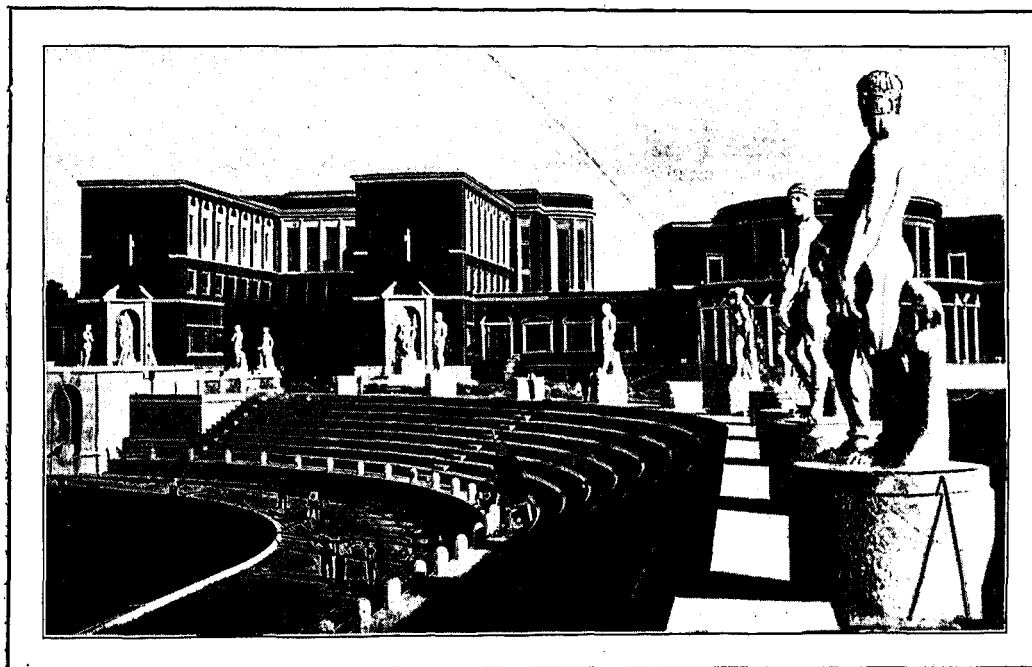
In regard to the accommodation in mental hospitals the increase in the number of beds is not keeping pace with the increase in the number under care. There is no margin of accommodation anywhere, and in many hospitals the overcrowding is serious, and is bound to become still more serious in the future unless

energetic measures are taken to provide additional accommodation.

Suggested Methods of Providing Accommodation at Low Cost.

The Board draws attention to the unsatisfactory accommodation for the Nursing Staff in many hospitals, and points out that mental nursing is exacting work, and after her spell of duty is over the nurse ought to be able to escape into a different atmosphere. It is useless to expect to recruit the right type of probationer in hospitals in which the nurses are required to sleep in rooms opening off the wards and to take their meals and spend their leisure time in uncongenial surroundings. The construction of a Nurse's Home not only attracts a better class of recruit, but by releasing accommodation which can be made available for patients it increases the bed accommodation at a relatively low cost.

The Board point out that in many areas the cheapest way of relieving the strain on the Mental Hospitals would



THE FORO MUSSOLINI

Showing progress made in the building in Rome, and some of the buildings of the Fascist Higher School of Physical Training and part of the great Stadium.

for the well being of the race. Of course, the great Mussolini has realised this fact. Behold the Foro Mussolini, and the splendid School for Physical Development, as presented on this page, which is now nearing completion in Rome. Vigour, energy, adventure, how to recapture them. Let us consider how it can be done.

**THE BOARD OF CONTROL.
THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.**

The Eighteenth Annual Report (Part I) of the Board of Control, for the year 1931, has now been published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C., price 2s. net. It is presented pursuant to Act of Parliament, and is of special interest and importance as dealing with the working of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.

Much of the introductory part of the last Report was occupied by a statement of the steps taken to bring the Mental Treatment Act into operation. The Board now state that unfortunately, before those steps had become

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