

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

SILICOSIS.

Silicosis, the disease commonly known as "stone masons' phthisis," "grinders' rot," "potters' asthma," or "miners' phthisis," according to the occupation followed by the sufferer, is ranked by the Home Office in a memorandum recently published as a deadly disease.

"During the last three years," states the memorandum, "there have been 80 cases, including 30 deaths among workmen employed in ganister mines and silica brick works; 179 cases, including 25 deaths, in the getting and manipulation of sandstone at quarries or on premises worked in conjunction therewith; 322 cases, including 87 deaths, in the pottery industry; 81 cases, including 32 deaths, in the metal industries, including metal grinding and sandblasting; and 91 cases, including 20 deaths, in coal mines." These figures show a total of 753 cases, of which 194 ended in death.

The disease is produced by the action of minute particles of silica dust, the main constituent of many rocks, such as quartz, sandstone, and flint, on the lungs. Regulations are in force prescribing certain preventive measures, including special methods of ventilation, and the wearing of respirators, which, however, the memorandum states, afford insufficient protection. "But investigations are being made by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research into the efficiency of various types of respirators. Considerable progress has been made, and it is hoped that before long a respirator possessing the necessary properties will be produced."

Asbestosis is also dealt with in the memorandum.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY.

Proposals for a new constructive policy in the treatment of offenders are made by Dr. Grace W. Pailthorpe in a report on studies in the psychology of delinquency issued by the Medical Research Council (H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. net).

Dr. Pailthorpe made her investigations while receiving a research grant from the council on the recommendation of their Committee on Mental Disorders. The investigations were concerned with the female inmates of prisons in one group and with inmates of preventive and rescue homes for girls and young women in another.

Dr. Pailthorpe suggests four methods of dealing with offenders. These are segregation, permanent or temporary; permanent supervision without loss of freedom; education; and psychotherapy. Those coming under the first two headings would, *ipso facto*, be incurable from the point of view of making them normal social units, but the treatment would render them innocuous, or nearly so, to their fellows.

REGISTRATION OF CHIROPODISTS.

A conference was recently held at the Y.M.C.A. building in Tottenham Court Road under the auspices of the British Association of Chiropodists with the main object of seeking legislative registration for chiropodists on lines similar to those prevailing in dentistry.

Mr. Franklin Charlesworth, president of the British Association of Chiropodists, who opened the conference, said that conditions existing in the profession to-day were deplorable. Exploitation and commercialisation were rife and it was with a real desire to set up machinery to protect the *bona-fide* members of the profession as well as the public that the conference had been called.

EMPIRE HEALTH WEEK.

Health Week to be held from October 9th-16th is organised by a Special Committee of the Royal Sanitary Institute under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The idea is to focus public attention on matters of health and to arouse a sense of personal responsibility amongst all classes of the general public. The main object of publicity is to secure the recognition of the fact that disease is a thing which can and should be prevented and to build up a public opinion which will not tolerate a high disease or death rate.

Health Week is now recognised as an institution by hundreds of Local Authorities and is being observed in many countries—in Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, and other overseas Dominions.

Mr. Percy Alden, chairman of the British Institute of Social Service, has written an encouraging article on "The Health of the State," in which he states that "year by year the influence of Health Week is extended; it touches in Maternity and Child Welfare, the Pre-School Child, School Medical Services and Sickness and Invalidity. The Committee that governs Health Week has for many years given prizes for the best essays dealing with health in the home written by school children. This year the awards will take the form of challenge shields tenable for one year for schools presenting the best set of answers to a paper of questions on 'Food and Nutrition.' The subject matter of these questions will be found in the Board of Education Handbook of Suggestions on Health Education." Information on any health question will gladly be given by the British Institute of Social Service if addressed to Percy Alden, Esq., 32, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE OF DISTRICT NURSING.

EXAMINATION FOR THE ROLL OF QUEEN'S NURSES.

September 15th, 1932.

1. How would you advise a working woman as to the disposal of refuse in (a) a tenement dwelling and (b) in a country cottage? What are the usual difficulties and what mistakes are often made?
2. State your methods in giving the following treatment on the district:—
 - (a) Dressing of gangrenous foot,
 - (b) Hypodermic injection of insulin,
 - (c) Bladder wash-out for a case of supra-pubic cystotomy,
 - (d) Tuberculous wound with gauze plugging.
3. In visiting a child after operation for removal of tonsils and adenoids, what special points would you observe and what advice would you give to the mother?
4. You are called in to a woman who has a threatened breast abscess and the baby has green stools. What would you do pending the advice of a doctor?
5. What is meant by the "nursing order" of a patient's room? What special points should be observed in this for a case of (a) measles (b) tuberculosis and (c) pneumonia?
- 6a. What do you understand by the following terms: Additional Benefits of Approved Societies, Public Assistance, Contributory Old Age Pension, and Local Authority?

or
- 6b. How may you, as a Queen's Nurse, assist in the development of the preventive side of the work in your district, and what other officials may you co-operate with, whose work is to prevent disease and promote health?

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