

health. Dr. Fenton reminded Sir Alfred that in 1930, when the latter was Mayor, he had been much impressed by the extent of ophthalmia neonatorum, generally thought to be due to a gonorrhœal condition in the mother, but really often due to pneumonic bacilli; in fact a great porportion of the destruction of eyesight might, in the past, be laid down to the result of this ophthalmia neonatorum. Through the influence of Sir Alfred a sum of £300 annually had been granted by the Borough Council of Kensington partly to combat this condition of things. The grant was made to the District Nurses' Association on the understanding that part of the money should be used in connection with eye treatment. The District Nurses attend to the eyes of the children as frequently as is required, with the result that destruction of eyesight from such a cause is now a thing almost unknown in the Borough. Dr. Fenton pointed out how expensive is the education required for a blind child, and said that he could easily prove that the money spent in preventive work in this respect had been well expended. He also drew attention to how much fewer is the number of cripples we meet in the streets, and gave indications of a large amount of preventive work which had been undertaken and had achieved the result of reducing the number of cripples in the Borough so that now, instead of finding it almost impossible to supply all the cripples in Kensington with Christmas hampers, under the Treloar gift, it was necessary to "go into the highways and hedges" and choose people who, in the past, would not have been regarded as eligible to receive a hamper.

Small-pox, as such, has now become a comparatively mild disease to what it once was; Dr. Fenton drew attention to the fact of how infectious diseases arose in cycles. About fifty years ago scarlet fever was regarded as a most dangerous disease, but now measles and whooping cough were much more dangerous. In connection with the strict measures necessary to prevent the spread of small-pox, Dr. Fenton told a story of what happened in connection with an hotel in the Strand, now no longer in existence. A woman was admitted to a hospital suffering from small-pox and, after enquiry, was found to have been a receptionist in this hotel. Next day a man in Sutherland Avenue contracted the disease; he had delivered some message at the hotel. Then an optician who worked opposite the hotel became affected, and next day a man in Camberwell developed it who had been delivering laundry at the hotel; next, a chambermaid contracted the disease and then a woman in Hackney, and it was found that she had taken in some washing from this hotel. Dr. Fenton described the ramifications through which they had traced the origin of the epidemic to a lady who had come from Barcelona and spent three days in the hotel. Then this visitor had gone to a house in London and a small-pox case in Aylesbury was found to have originated through the victim having spent one night in the house next to that in which she had stayed after leaving the hotel. A woman in Lewisham was affected, and through this the originator of the epidemic was traced as the two were cousins. The Barcelona lady's movements were thoroughly enquired into and it was found that she had spent one afternoon shopping in a large store. This involved a tremendous piece of work in the district, for everyone who could be traced as having been in the building on that afternoon was vaccinated within twenty-four hours. It may be said that this one woman gave rise to, at the least, nine cases of small-pox, and three of the patients died. Owing to the promptness with which the matter was dealt with, the exhaustive enquiries made and the widespread precautions taken, the number of victims was limited to a wonderful extent.

At the request of Sir Alfred, Dr. Fenton gave an interesting account of the work done with the Schick-test

in cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever. We regret that we have to give a rather short account of this lecture.

#### FIXTURES AT HEADQUARTERS.

The following fixtures have been arranged for the month of February. On Wednesday, February 8th, the Ramblers Club are visiting the beautiful Loan Exhibition of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth and those who wish to join us should be at 22-23, Grosvenor Place, at 2.15 p.m. on that day. Afterwards we propose going on to inspect the premises of the Good Housekeeping Institute. On Saturday, February 18th, from 8.0 to 12.0 p.m. Miss Cutler, Miss Graham and Miss Macdonald are giving a dance for Members of the Association and the British College of Nurses, and on Friday, February 24th, at 8.0 p.m. Miss Gladys Stephenson will give a Lantern Lecture in connection with her work in China which will we are sure prove most interesting. On Wednesday, March 1st, at 3.0 p.m., Dr. MacIntyre, Medical Superintendent of Plaistow Hospital, has kindly undertaken to give us a lecture on "Nursing in Infectious Diseases."

#### NIGHTINGALE SCHOLARSHIPS.

Members of the Association have doubtless followed events, in the reports which have appeared from time to time in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, of the progress being made towards the establishment of the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation. Until the National Florence Nightingale Memorial Committees in each country, represented in the International Council, shall have had time to make their plans for organising the Foundation for the future and for providing for its financial support, certain interim scholarships are to be raised to operate in 1933-34. These will help to make it possible to carry on the work at Bedford College, hitherto financed entirely by the League of Red Cross Societies.

At a Meeting of the Executive Committee on January 20th the matter was under discussion and it was ultimately decided that the Association should contribute £50 towards these scholarships. We hope that the Members will give us their sympathy and support so that the Association may take its part in this valuable piece of international work. Miss Schuller has very kindly said that she will organise an American Tea in April as a means towards raising part of the money while Miss Theobald has promised to arrange a bridge drive. We shall be glad to hear from other Members of the Association who will be prepared to help in any way.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### Helena Benevolent Fund.

We have received many letters of warm thanks, from aged and sick members, for the cheques sent to them in December from the above Fund. Over twenty-five of these, amounting to from one to three pounds, were sent out and the recipients have all appreciated them greatly. The amount required for these Christmas grants was more than covered by the sales of Miss Macdonald's little book on "The Four Temperaments" and we thank all those members sincerely for the help they gave in selling copies, thus enabling us to do a piece of real Christmas work. It has meant much to the sick and aged to be thus remembered. One who is blind felt that she must write her letter of thanks herself and the last letter we opened closed with the following message "Tell the members that it means so much not to be forgotten altogether at Christmas time and say to them 'Inasmuch as you did it to one of these' who are sick and in trouble. We from the shelf, wish them all good things."

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ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.

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