

Prophylaxis.

"In view of the varying degree of communicability shown by pneumonia at different times, and the difficulty of estimating the infectivity of individual cases, it is desirable that the precautions suggested below should be made to apply as far as possible to all cases; particularly, however, to those cases in which the pneumonia occurs as a complication of an acute infectious disease.

"Effective prophylaxis depends on isolation of the patient, and on the adoption of measures calculated to reduce the risk of droplet infection.

"If the patient is treated at home he should have a separate room; if in a hospital ward, crowding must be avoided, and only a few cases of pneumonia treated in one room, the patient's bed being separated from others by screening. Where removal of pneumonia patients to hospital is necessary, it should be carried out only under medical advice and care taken to maintain the patient in the recumbent position.

"The value to the patient of abundance of fresh air, free ventilation and sunlight cannot be too strongly insisted upon. All window curtains and unnecessary furniture should be removed from the sick room.

"Sputum and discharges from the nose and throat should be disinfected. For sputum a cup containing a strong solution of disinfectant may be used. Handkerchiefs should be boiled, or burnt if of paper.

"Attendants on the patient should observe the ordinary precautions necessary in dealing with cases of infectious disease. Prophylactic gargling and gentle douching of the nose are recommended. In nursing cases of pneumonia associated with influenza or some other acute infectious disease, the wearing of face masks is desirable.

Nursing Provision.

"Skilled nursing is one of the chief requisites in the treatment of pneumonia and the provision of a service capable of meeting this need should be the first care of a local authority. Where a local authority has already made arrangement for the domiciliary nursing of measles, extension of this service to pneumonia should be easily possible. The arrangement to this end, which is sometimes made through the local District Nursing Association or by an *ad hoc* appointment of a whole-time nurse, should, so far as practicable, be such as will allow of rapid expansion and of the provision of an emergency service in time of epidemic.

"Where nurses are provided by a local authority for domiciliary nursing, it should be clearly understood that, subject to the demands of other duties, each nurse is under the orders of the medical practitioner attending the patient, and that no interference with his instructions is permitted.

Hospital Provision.

"As disturbance of pneumonia patients involves some special risk, great care must be taken in selecting cases for treatment in hospital; regard should be had to the sanitary conditions of the home, the possibility of isolation at home, and the means and facilities for home nursing and general care. In some cases, however, removal to hospital may be the patient's only hope of recovery."

The Memorandum may be purchased directly from H.M. Stationery Office, at Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, or through any bookseller, price 1d. net.

HEALTH OF SCHOOL GIRLS.

During the past year there has been more than one case in which parents have considered that the death of or injuries to their child at a boarding school have resulted from the lack of the provision of efficient nursing care by

school authorities; and in which, after these tragedies, parents have brought these cases into Courts of Law.

Without exception, upon enquiry, we have found that Registered Nurses have not been employed either in charge of the sick room or for the care of the patients, and it would appear that schoolmasters and mistresses should realise their responsibilities in regard to skilled nursing, in the same way that they do as to medical care.

So far as we know, few parents when arranging to send a child to a boarding school, trouble to inspect the Sanatorium, if there is one, or to enquire as to the nursing care provided.

These remarks apply more to preparatory schools than to the great public schools, which are now mostly equipped, for isolation, if necessary, and for professional nursing care.

We note therefore, with very great interest, a step taken in the right direction as described in the article which follows.

Medical Innovation at Boarding School.

An up-to-date medical and dental clinic, where the girls are to be regularly examined whether they are in good health or not, combined with a miniature isolation hospital for emergencies, was opened by Major-General W. P. MacArthur, Honorary Physician to the King and Commandant and Director of Studies, Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, on Saturday (October 26) at Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay. Professor Warrington Yorke, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and chairman of the school's board of governors, presided.

The school is believed to be the only girls' school in the country with a full-time resident medical officer, Miss E. E. Mawson, M.D., Ch.B. (Liverpool).

Medical and dental inspection rooms and ordinary wards are on the ground floor. The first floor, which is entirely separate with different entrance and exit, is for infectious cases. The girl patient will go in at one end of the isolation department and when free from infection will pass through the discharge and fumigation department at the other end of the building, where she will undress, bath and dress in fresh clothing before leaving by the infection-free staircase.

The school is stated to have had no epidemic for 13 years, and the new arrangements are an additional precaution.

The building was designed by Mr. S. Colwyn Foulkes, M.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., of Colwyn Bay. A full description follows:

On the ground floor are the doctor's private room, medical inspection room, matron's room, dental room, two four-bed wards, two two-bed wards, one single ward, two bathrooms, linen room and kitchen.

On the first floor there are the same number of wards, bedrooms for doctor and matron, two maids' rooms, three bedrooms, linen room and the discharge and fumigation department.

The sanitary and plumbing equipment is of the latest design and includes stainless steel sinks, the new I.B.A. standardised panelled baths, copper pipes throughout, and floors and walls in the toilet rooms of terrazzo. The building is centrally heated from boilers in the basement. All floors are fireproof and those in the wards are covered with polished Indian teak parquetry.

The sick rooms, fitted with vitaglass, are grouped to the south and west, where they have the best outlook and the maximum sunshine. Every bed can be wheeled out on to the terrace or balconies.

While the building is much like a modern hospital in its efficiency, the desire has been to avoid all austerity and to make it as homely and as friendly a place as possible.

We presume that the Matron of this miniature hospital is a Registered Nurse as so much thought and care have otherwise been given to this annexe.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)