

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

ST. PANCRAS HOUSE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York has most kindly consented to visit Somers Town on Thursday May 14th, to open the new block of St. Joseph's Flats in Drummond Crescent and also the social and occupational centre which is to be a Memorial to the life and work of the Founder, Father Basil Jellicoe. The Opening Ceremony will take place at 3 p.m., after which the flats and the centre will be blessed by the Reverend G. P. Maryon-Wilson, Vicar of St. Mary's, Somers Town. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Her Royal Highness has also consented to receive purses of £5 or over for the Endowment Fund for the Centre.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR LONDON TO HEAL MENTAL SICKNESS.

To deal more effectively with mental sickness in this country, where three million people are said to require treatment, the Institute of Medical Psychology has acquired a site on which to build a hospital for such cases. The site, occupying 31,400 sq. ft. in Store Street, Bloomsbury, lies close to the new buildings of the University of London with which the Institute's educational work is associated.

It is proposed to erect in the immediate future a building capable of housing the Institute's existing hostel for psycho-neurotic patients and having accommodation eventually for upwards of a hundred beds. It will be fully equipped for laboratory investigation and research and for occupational treatment. The new building is also to serve as an educational centre for psychological medicine, and it will be well supplied with lecture rooms.

Before the Institute came into existence in 1920 as the Tavistock Clinic for Functional Nervous Disorders, the field of psychotherapy in this country was practically untouched. Since that time, the science has developed rapidly till it is to-day recognised by the medical profession as an important branch of healing.

In its present restricted premises in Malet Place, Bloomsbury, the Institute of Medical Psychology last year gave more than 20,000 hours of treatment, an increase of nearly 25 per cent. on the previous year. Among the patients were more than 600 children.

The Duke of Kent, a bust of whom was unveiled at the clinic by Mrs. Stanley Baldwin on Tuesday, April 7th, is the Institute's President.

"AIR CONDITIONED."

"This question of noise is going to get us down, unless we do something about it. Modern life is full of unavoidable strains and stresses. Why should we put up with unnecessary ones?"

Lord Horder spoke these words at a luncheon held at the Berkeley Hotel, London, to mark the completion of alterations made to the hotel. Every bedroom is now fitted with noise-excluding windows and is "air conditioned," a patent ventilating system providing continuous supplies of fresh, washed air at a temperature which is thermostatically controlled.

This is the first time, it is claimed, that an hotel in Europe, and, probably, in the world, has been fitted throughout in this manner.

The Berkeley Hotel in Piccadilly is renowned for comfort and *cuisine*, and now that noise is to be scientifically excluded, it will no doubt be filled to overflowing by those who can afford its terms.

MENACE OF MEASLES TO EYESIGHT.

A warning relative to the menace of measles to eyesight, particularly in the case of children, has been issued by the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board in connection with its national eye service scheme. Measles has been unusually severe during the present spring.

In every case of the disease, the Board points out, there is some irritation of the eyes indicated by "marked watering." This may lead to swelling of the cells which form the protective covering of the clear front of the eyeball, and, if neglected, an ulcer may develop, "with very serious consequences."

"On no account," states the Board, "should any attempt be made to cure such trouble by home remedies." When the symptoms appear, medical advice should be sought immediately.

CHILD NEGLECT.

We note that the parents of five children, charged with neglect at Windsor Police Court, were reported by the police to have been warned on 44 occasions during the past 12 months for leaving their children alone, and whose screams attracted neighbours. The eldest child, aged six, had been left in charge of the others, whose ages were five months, two years, three years, and five years. The police found the house in a filthy condition. All the children were undernourished, filthy, and had sores. When the parents returned they said they had been to the pictures, and added that if other people went, why not they?

These inhuman parents were sentenced to a few months hard labour. But why warn such people *forty-four* times? And are these unfortunate children to be again returned to these parents for further suffering? Surely the law has some means of protecting them. If not, why not?

PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS.

The text has been issued of the Bill to consolidate, with amendments, certain enactments relating to public health, introduced in the House of Lords, on March 24th, by Lord Gage, Lord in Waiting. The Bill is in 12 parts, and includes 340 clauses and two schedules. Among the subjects coming within its scope are local administration, sanitation and buildings, offensive trades, water supply, the prevention, notification and treatment of disease, hospitals and nursing homes, maternity and child welfare, baths, wash-houses and bathing places, and canal boats.

OIL FUMES AND CANCER OF THE LUNGS.

A two years' investigation will shortly begin at Manchester University to determine whether the fumes from heavy-oil engine vehicles have any relation to the increased incidence of cancer of the lung and the air passages.

This work is made possible by a grant of £1,000 from the British Empire Cancer Campaign, and if the investigation yields results a further grant may be made.

THE LEAGUE'S BALANCE SHEET.

The revenue of the League of Nations for 1935 was 35,828,404 gold francs (about £2,389,000 at current rates), of which 8,780,551f. was in respect of contributions relating to the previous year. The expenditure was 26,830,219f. (£1,782,000), of which 14,274,442f. was spent by the Secretariat, 9,695,475f. transferred to the International Labour Office, and 2,860,322f. transferred to the Permanent Court of International Justice.

The most useful department of the League is its Health Section although Nursing is not included.

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