

Hæmorrhage is not the only condition for which blood transfusion is performed. Others are loss of fluid due to violent acute diarrhoea, collapse due to any cause, certain anæmic diseases, and sometimes for the rare bleeding disease known as hæmophilia. Hæmorrhage, whether accidental or due to such diseases as enteric fever, etc., is, however, the commonest.

[From the *South African Nursing Record and First Aid Gazette.*]

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD ON VAGRANCY.

THE YOUNG, THE OLD, AND THE HOMELESS.

Sir Kingsley Wood, the Minister of Health, addressing a meeting of East Riding local authorities at Beverley recently, said the one-time old familiar vagrant was disappearing from this country and the number of casuals was being steadily reduced. Young men who had taken to the road had been persuaded to enter hostels and to train themselves for a more useful life, and old and infirm people were settling down in suitable institutions. Better still, in many cases efforts had been increasingly successful in getting the children of habitual vagrants to children's homes or schools.

Much was being done also for the homeless poor. In London, for instance, any person who applied was assured of a bed in a home of one of the voluntary societies or in a London County Council hostel.

He was concerned with the problem of children in casual wards. It was not desirable to make it easy for women casuals to divest themselves of responsibility for their children, but it was generally harmful to children to take them from casual ward to casual ward. Certainly the appropriate powers should be exercised under which parental rights could be assumed in cases where, by reason of mental deficiency or habits or mode of life, the parent was unfit to have control of the child.

Better provision was now being made for the maintenance, education and after-care of destitute and homeless children. Large homes of the "barrack" type were now only to be found in a few districts, and the homes established during the past year had all been either single homes or small groups of cottages. Children in such homes went to school with other children of the district and joined in their games and recreational facilities. Action had also been taken in certain areas to effect improvements in the visitation of boarded-out children.

There were new developments for the special accommodation of old people. Arrangements were increasingly being made under the Housing Acts for the majority of old people who were able to look after themselves, and already approvals had been given for nearly 20,000 houses or flats for them. In certain areas groups of cottage homes for the aged who needed particular care and attention were to be built, where the inmates could sleep in single rooms and where they could bring some of their personal possessions.

The average number of persons in receipt of institutional and domiciliary out-relief had declined this year. The process of appropriating poor law institutions for public health and other purposes had continued to contribute to the reduction in the number of persons receiving relief in poor law institutions.

HEALTH IN INDUSTRY.

At the seventeenth annual lecture Conference of the Industrial Welfare Society held recently at Balliol College, Oxford, a message was received from the Duke of York, President of the Society, who wrote:

"I am sorry I am unable to be with you at the conference this year, especially as the programme covers so wide a

range of interesting subjects. Discussions on the relation of health to contentment at work should draw attention to the fact that the problems of industry are not merely confined to questions of supply and demand. I am glad to see you have included sessions on industrial neurosis and the recruitment and training of juvenile workers, for none can deny that at the present time these are both important matters. Pleasantness of work and right human relationships affect industrial prosperity, for the success of a business enterprise as well as of a nation depends ultimately upon the willing co-operation of individuals. Therefore some form of training and supervision is essential if juveniles are to develop in later life a sense of responsibility.

"To some people it may seem superfluous to do more than comply with statutory regulations, but we must strive to overcome such false reasoning and impress upon employers not yet associated with us the value of voluntary provisions in conserving health and promoting happiness. I send my greetings to the delegates and my thanks to the several speakers who have gone to so much trouble to enrich the conference with their wisdom and experience."

THE NATION'S SIGHT.

Eye Service and Education.

A nation-wide campaign to educate the public in the care of the eyes has been undertaken by the National Ophthalmic Treatment Board in conjunction with the British Medical Association. It will be carried out by means of booklets, lectures, and the cinematograph.

With a widespread system of lectures and film displays, the Board intends to create an educational network embracing the remotest country districts. Where no local cinema exists, travelling operators will exhibit the films in institutes and church halls.

"It is hoped," says the Board, "that in industrial centres, the films and lectures will be attended by secretaries of Approved Societies, members of the Hospital Saving Association, and similar organisations. The co-operation of the clergy, welfare workers, and secretaries of women's institutes and working men's clubs is extremely important if our work is to be completely successful."

A feature of the campaign will be the simplicity of the language employed. This will explain in lay terms the structure and action of the organs of sight and describe the dangers which assail them. Particular attention will be paid to the case of children. Where possible, further National Eye Service centres will be opened to provide treatment, at a nominal cost, by qualified eye doctors.

CHRISTMAS STAMPS OF HOPE AND HEALTH.

Soon we shall be sending off Christmas parcels and letters to friends overseas. These can be brightened up and a good cause helped by buying some of the specially designed little Santa Claus stamps which are being sold to aid unfortunate people suffering from the terrible disease of tuberculosis.

These stamps, which are known as Christmas Seals, are bright and cheery-looking, and are used for sticking on the flaps of letters and on parcels.

Very few people are aware that every day in this country more than one hundred people die from tuberculosis, and that hundreds of thousands are suffering poverty, ill-health and unhappiness as the result of it. It was to provide Tuberculosis Care Committees with the necessary funds for the relief of this distress that the Christmas Seal Sale was introduced into this country four years ago by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The seals cost only ½d. each, 6d. a dozen, or 4s. a hundred. They may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, The Christmas Seal Sale, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

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