

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Right Hon. Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P., Minister of Health, has consented to act as President of the Health Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is to be held at Southport from July 6th to 11th, 1936. He will deliver his Inaugural Address on Monday afternoon, July 6th.

EMPTY MILK BOTTLES.

We cordially support the views expressed in a letter to *The Times* by Miss Coral G. L. Morgan, of 12, Cheyne Gardens, S.W.3, on the subject of empty milk bottles. Miss Morgan writes:—

"In view of the trouble now taken with regard to the health of the cows I should like to draw the attention of your readers to the extremely unhygienic and unpleasant practice of placing empty milk bottles at the foot of the house railings, ready to receive the attention of any passing dog. The excuse given is 'The bottles are afterwards sterilized; no harm can ensue.' My answer is 'Should we put our tea-cups in the same position however much they were to be sterilized?' The empty bottles, if they cannot be kept until the milkman returns with refilled bottles, can be placed upside down on the spikes of the railings, or on the window ledges of the house."

LONDON HEALTH SERVICES.

The County Council are the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts for the inspection and supervision of the midwives in the whole County including the City.

Both the Mental Health and the School Medical Services are functions of the County Council.

The transfer to the London County Council on April 1st, 1930, of the functions of the 25 Metropolitan Boards of Guardians and of the Metropolitan Asylums Board involved an enormous expansion of the public health work and organisation of the County Council. The services passing to the care of the Public Health Department of the Council included 76 hospitals and institutions containing over 42,000 beds, and a staff of nearly 20,000 persons, and great progress has been made since that date towards the transformation of the Boards of Guardians' institutional service for the sick poor into a unified Municipal hospital service for London.

PLANS FOR PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The Board of Education has issued a circular on Physical Education, and summarises the main directions in which the system of physical education in this country calls for improvement and expansion. They are as follows:—

(a) A more complete organisation of physical education through the appointment in every area of an adequate number of competent full-time or part-time men and women organisers, who can advise teachers in all types of schools and can help to co-ordinate and develop the provision of physical activities for children and young people generally;

(b) a larger output of teachers competent to give gymnastic training in senior, secondary, and technical schools; also an increase in the numbers of short courses for teachers in all types of schools, and for teachers and leaders in voluntary organisations;

(c) an improvement in the standard of physical training in elementary schools, particularly in certain areas;

(d) a fuller appreciation of the need for physical education for pupils in secondary and technical schools at all stages of their school life;

(e) a more thorough organisation to enable young people no longer attending school, whether employed or unemployed, to receive from competent teachers and in suitably equipped premises continued opportunities of physical education.

PURITY OF LONDON'S WATER SUPPLY.

Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, at a meeting of the Metropolitan Water Board emphasised the importance of a pure water supply, for on its purity and plenty depended the physical health and capacity of our people. The days had, he said, gone when hundreds of thousands of lives were sacrificed in this country in epidemics, which came at more or less regular intervals. Under the jurisdiction of the Board, in an area containing a population of 7,500,000, the people had not only ample supplies, but water of a purity unsurpassed in the world. London owed a great deal to the Metropolitan Water Board in health matters alone.

A SURGERY ON WHEELS.

On the recommendation of the Education Committee the West Sussex County Council have fitted a trailer caravan as a complete dental surgery with a small waiting-room and recovery cubicle. The caravan, in which the school dentists will "operate," will tour the villages in West Sussex where a large proportion of the children under the Committee's care live in rural areas, where there are no facilities for efficient dental treatment.

The new travelling surgery is equipped with electricity and all the necessary dental apparatus. Built-in fittings include a desk and chair, a card-index rack, a hand-bowl and sink. The surgery is lighted by a window in the roof over the dental chair and by five wall windows.

The venture is stated by Mr. Evan Davis, the Secretary to the West Sussex Education Committee, to represent a part of a comprehensive scheme to give as good medical and educational facilities to the country children as can be given to those who live in the towns.

THE HORRORS OF RABIES.

We feel sure had anyone seen a human being die of rabies they would not violate the successful steps adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture to prevent its occurrence in this country, and we are thankful to note vigilance upon the part of airport officials in this connection. A heavier fine, however, should be inflicted when travellers attempt to bring in dogs without a licence and thus prevent them being placed in quarantine.

In 1918 there was an outbreak of rabies in Devon and Cornwall through an infected dog having been smuggled into the country. It took three years before the effects of that action were wiped out.

In that time 319 other dogs were affected, and 358 human beings were known to have been bitten by affected or suspected dogs. Since 1921 there have been no confirmed cases of rabies in this country, except that since 1919 twelve cases of rabies have occurred in imported dogs while undergoing quarantine.

This successful reduction of rabies is entirely due to the regulations of the Ministry being strictly enforced. If not we will very quickly get rabies again in this country, as it is still very prevalent on the Continent.

SEAWEED WALLS FOR LONDON CLINIC.

To Speed-up Treatment of Nervous Cases.

To ensure perfect quiet for its nervous patients, the walls and ceilings of treatment rooms at the clinic of the Institute of Medical Psychology in Malet Place, Bloomsbury, are being covered with inch-thick blankets of seaweed and wool. Seaweed is said to be an effective non-conductor of sound.

The device forms part of a reconstruction scheme made possible by a gift of £500 from the Public Trustee, who stipulated that the money should be used to "speed-up" treatment of persons suffering from nervous illness.

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