

is able to come quickly to the hospital for operative cases.

Although the regular medical service of the organisation is carried by the Medical Director, we have, says Miss Willeford, in addition a collaborating Medical Advisory Committee in Lexington, 165 miles away. This Committee is composed of physicians and specialists who authorise our "Medical Routine." This Routine, which is similar to the standing orders of other public health nursing organisations, authorises the nurses to give certain treatments and medications, pending the arrival of a physician. The nurses follow this Routine in their field work, and the Medical Advisory Committee assumes the responsibility for their so doing.

During the nine years of the Service it has paid 161,832 home visits, and has received 115,601 at the clinics. We have delivered over 2,000 patients, with only 48 stillbirths, and no maternal deaths due directly to obstetrical causes. In the first thousand cases we had two maternal deaths, one due to chronic heart and kidney disease, and the other to chronic heart disease. Neither of these two deaths could be attributed directly to an obstetrical cause. In the second thousand deliveries we have had no maternal deaths from any cause whatsoever.

We have given over 68,800 inoculations and vaccinations. These include not only typhoid, diphtheria toxin-antitoxin, influenza, pneumonia, and smallpox, but also a few other sera such as anti-tetanic and anti-venin, which have been given directly under the physician's supervision.

It is a splendid record of work, and indeed it would seem safer to have a child in the Kentucky Highlands than in Great Britain, where the maternal death-rate is still round about 4 per thousand.

THE HEALTH CONGRESS.

The Royal Sanitary Institute, in the preliminary programme of the Health Congress which is to be held at Portsmouth from July 11th to 16th, announce that among the subjects to be discussed at this year's Congress are the following:—

- The future of the general hospital.
- The defects found in school entrants and the steps that might be taken to effect their remedy before the beginning of school life.
- Behaviour and nervous disorders in children.
- Clinics for the pre-school child.
- The food manufacturers' contribution to public health.
- The Food and Drugs Bill, 1937.
- Meat and food inspection.
- The Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Scheme.
- Air raid precautions.
- Propaganda and the hygiene of indigenous races in the tropics.
- The health of the worker.
- The duration of incapacitating sickness.
- Rheumatism.
- The Housing (Rural Workers) Act.
- Operation of the Housing Act, 1936.
- Disinfestation by diffusion screens.
- Town planning.
- Sea outfalls and disintegrator plants.
- The drainage and plumbing of Earl's Court Exhibition.
- The Congress, which is expected to attract a record attendance, will have as president the Right Hon. the Earl of Bessborough, P.C., G.C.V.O. Already 800 official delegates have been appointed by Government departments, foreign and dominion governments and municipalities, local authorities, etc., in Great Britain.
- At the Health Exhibition arranged in connection with the Congress, the exhibits will include foods, sanitary appliances, and various appliances illustrating municipal activities and hygiene in the home.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, TOOWOOMBA, QUEENSLAND.

BY EUPHEMIA TORRY.

The General Hospital is close to the town and sprawls over a good deal of space. This is one of the characteristics of Toowoomba, where by-laws require such a large frontage to every house that there are only 6,000 dwellings in 17 square miles. The population is about 27,000, but, except for a couple of blocks of shops on each side of the centre, there never seems to be any town at all.

Toowoomba lies about 90 miles west from the Pacific, and 2,000 feet above sea-level. It is, therefore, a health resort for dwellers on the coastal belt. The local authorities try to increase the health reputation of their town, and they state in their own publication that: "Health is taken seriously by the municipality of Toowoomba, and thousands of pounds have been spent on creating health conditions. The greatest achievement is the installation of a sewerage system. . . . £300,000 will be spent on a water supply. . . . Toowoomba can claim to be practically free of infectious diseases. In 1935 only one child was reported as having contracted diphtheria. The City Council endeavours to stamp out diphtheria by an extensive campaign of immunisation—the number of children treated annually corresponds with the birth-rate. Freedom from the mosquito is a comfort. . . . Toowoomba can claim to be in a position of controlling this pest. . . ." (Since a leading doctor who sat on the Council expressly to insist on anti-mosquito measures has abated his energy, the mosquito has returned.) "Every avenue of preventive medicine is investigated. . . . The municipality is also concerned in the training of children in health, lectures being occasionally given to young people on health."

Toowoomba Hospital cost much to build. For the newer wards, including the maternity block, the sum of £1,000 a bed is mentioned. This figure is all the more extraordinary as it does not cover anything much in the way of equipment. The hospital has an X-ray for photographic work only. They do no deep-ray therapy, nor violet nor other ray work, but they do a little diathermy, and have a small establishment for electric treatment.

In the matter of equipment for everyday work also there is nothing to boast about. Food, for instance, is cooked in one central kitchen and distributed in trolleys, which, though covered, have no heating in them whatever. As several wards are across the garden, and Toowoomba a very windy place, I cannot imagine anyone in those sections ever having a hot meal. Furthermore, in the maternity section the trolley is opened in a servery and the food placed on open trays and carried by nurses to the patients in other rooms. Matron told me she had repeatedly asked for better food arrangements, but no one listened. Then the side passages around the servants' quarters and the kitchens were deplorably shabby and Matron's repeated requests for repainting everywhere went unheeded. So it looks as if the Town Council did not quite live up to its claims regarding health matters.

In Australia, hospitals are only partly supported by voluntary subscriptions, which generally take the form of entertainments. In Queensland, "The Golden Casket," an authorised lottery drawn about once a month, provides £10 a bed towards building and equipment of hospitals, but nothing for upkeep. Patients "pay what they can," and the deficit is made up, 60 per cent. by the State Government and 40 per cent. by local authorities.

In the main wards I thought the windows very narrow, but perhaps glare has to be carefully avoided, and, anyhow, the windows were low enough for patients to see out of. Twelve beds to a ward and a small room at the side

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