

## THE DUKE-FINGARD INHALATION TREATMENT FOR ASTHMA.

A VISIT TO THE CLINIC FOR FREE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS, 25, STRATFORD ROAD, KENSINGTON, W.8.

Asthma, a prevalent disease in this country, has, until recently, been regarded as more or less incurable, but by the introduction of the new Duke-Fingard Inhalation Treatment there is every indication that this depressing outlook is happily to be reversed, as, for sufferers of the dread ravages of asthma, the hope to obtain relief and cure read now no longer be deferred or vain.

It was a matter of enthralling interest to Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses when, on Thursday, June 22nd, by the kind courtesy of Lt.-General Sir Harold Fawcus, K.C.B., Medical Director, they were privileged to visit this clinic, where treatment continues throughout the 24 hours.

On arrival at the clinic, a white corner house of dignified appearance, the class was cordially welcomed by Sir Harold Fawcus, who, in a short statement, immediately explained that this new inhalation treatment was first tried in Canada, with such encouraging results that a society was formed in 1936 for the administration of this treatment, so that it could be made available for the poor as well as those who could afford the necessary fees. The aim of the society is to provide treatment for all classes of sufferers from respiratory diseases, and to establish further clinics where required.

That the workers may have the benefit of the Duke-Fingard treatment without loss of work, sessions are arranged throughout the 24 hours.

It was explained that the Duke-Fingard Inhalation Treatment is given in a way that is new to medicine, and the method is open to great possibilities for the future. The apparatus for the treatment is placed in each room.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE APPARATUS.

The apparatus, all things considered, is quite compact, and resembles a medium-sized meat safe placed in front of the window. This contains 12 trays of the liquid medicament, which is an oily brown mixture in carefully worked out proportions of creosote, phenol, iodine, aromatic substances, essential oils and glycerine. (It has been asserted that formalin is in the vapour—this is incorrect.)

The outer air is introduced through a short tube, from

1½ to 2½ in. in diameter, which leads to a box of dry calcium chloride, which extracts moisture from the air and, incidentally, filters off dust and microbes. The air is sucked into the apparatus by a small electric fan. The air is then electrically heated to between 70° and 80° F., and is driven over the 12 trays of medicament, where it picks up in a volatilised invisible form the various substances just enumerated. Of these drugs at least the first three are powerful antiseptics, which, carried by relatively dry, warm air, can come directly into contact with the microbes in the bronchial mucus. Here the "atomised," really molecularised, antiseptics do their work of killing the bacilli.

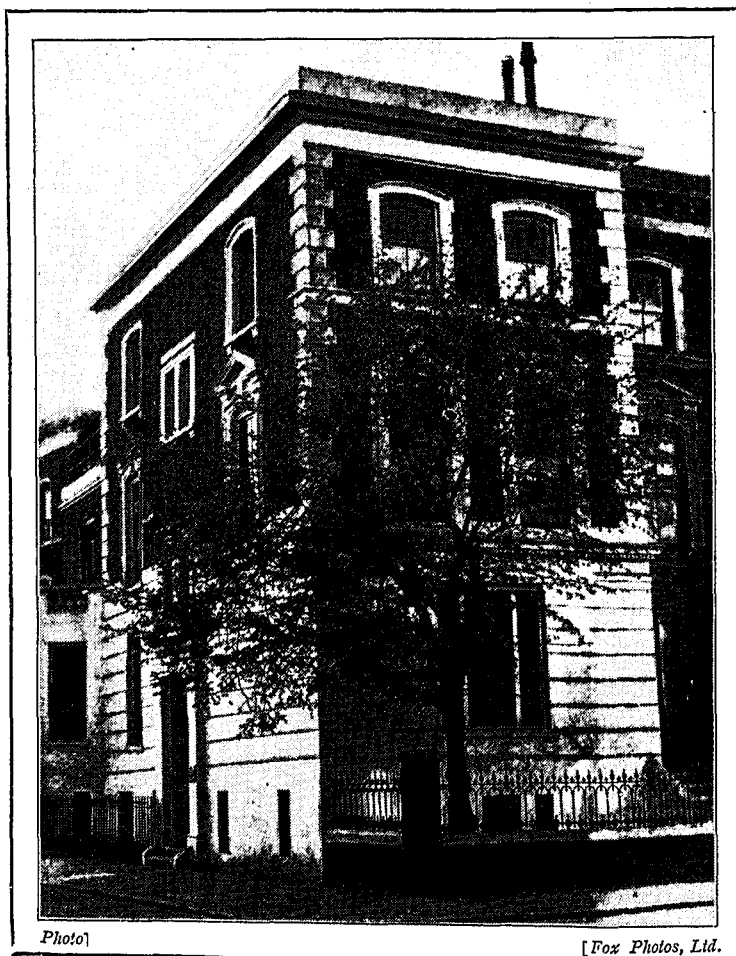
The small model can deliver 350 cubic feet of air per minute,

21 per cent. of which is oxygen, so that the patient is breathing not pure vapour of a mixture of antiseptics, but an atmosphere containing the normal percentage of oxygen, dried and warmed and laden with non-irritating antiseptics. The presence of the glycerine in the vapour contributes to the blandness of the mixture. It should be made clear that the patient does not require to be in bed to be treated, since the whole air of the room is full of the medicated vapour; the patient may be in bed or sitting up, reading, writing, as he pleases, or he may even be asleep.

The course is a graded one, commencing with three hours a day. The mere fact that the patient can breathe the vapour during the six or eight hours' sleep is enormously in favour of this treatment. A few patients complain of slight irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, but this rapidly passes off.

Sir Harold, assisted by the Secretary, Miss Barbara Beresford, very kindly conducted the class through the various

departments. The building throughout is well adapted for the purpose, rooms of varying size on the three stories being devoted to treatment, and the required offices. The Chairman's consulting room was especially admired. Special attention has been given to good lighting, windows introduced with charming effect, and the bright, soft-toned decorations are most pleasing. It was of the greatest interest to visit the rooms and see patients during the process of treatment—an encouraging sight! Seated round in comfortable chairs, the patients during treatment were enjoying recreative occupation of knitting, crocheting, reading, sewing, and some were deeply engaged in a game of cards, while the unobtrusive little apparatus silently diffused its curative properties to a company full of enthusiasm as to the relief it gave them.



The Clinic for Free Medical Treatment of Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

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