

and bone. A brawn made of the skins of these animals, with scrapings of the heads and bones highly flavoured with spices, was absolute filth, but nevertheless was sold rapidly by the military authorities at 1s. per pound, and was eagerly eaten by the defenders as a means of "filling up the cracks" in a half-ration diet.

#### THE STRAIN OF THE SIEGE.

Constant watching and short rations, however, were bound to tell on us sooner or later, and there were none who did not waste to a large extent. We could defend our town, but to march three miles and fight could never have been done at any time after the middle of February I feel quite certain. It was remarkable how little time it took to get the defending force fit to march when full rations were dealt out, which I ascribe to the removal of anxiety as much as anything else. We knew what our fall meant to the nation. Our anxiety was for that not for ourselves. No one would ever have been taken alive here. The word surrender was never once heard during our long siege in Mafeking.

When it is understood that with 1,200 men at the end of the siege we defended a front of twelve miles against a much shorter front at the beginning of the siege with 1,500 men, it will be felt what mental and bodily strain there must have been. No post had a decent body of men to defend it, and some had only four or five. At one point we were sixty-five yards from the enemy, near enough to throw stones into their trench and to have them sent back to ours. In all 767 of the working garrison passed through hospital out of roughly speaking 1,500.

## THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

### YORKSHIRE.

*Conference of Sanitary Authorities.*—The sanitary authorities in the West Riding met in conference at Wakefield recently to consider the question of effective administration to ensure purity of the milk supply; and, secondly, the proposal to build at the public expense a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives. Dr. Kaye, the medical officer for the Riding, showed the large loss of life in the Riding from consumption, notwithstanding the marked diminution of the mortality from this disease during the past ten years as the result of improved sanitation. The two subjects to be considered by the conference were intimately concerned with the more direct endeavours to further diminish the disease. The Chairman (Alderman Sugden, Chairman of the West Riding Sanitary Committee) pointed out the need for further powers to properly secure the purity of the milk supply. The immense mortality from consumption evidenced by the Registrar-General's returns indicated the necessity for establishing homes for consumptives. To do this they required further powers. There remained the questions what these powers should be, and how they should seek to obtain them. Private benevolence had done much in the establishment of sanatoria, but to deal adequately with the question of the prevention of consumption, it was the duty of all who are interested in the preservation of the public health to undertake all reasonable means to secure the desired end. Local authorities had to provide isolation hospitals for certain infectious diseases, but for the most fell disease of all—consumption—they had no power to provide. After some discussion, the four following resolutions were passed:

That this meeting of representatives of county authorities and districts agree upon the necessity of more adequate administration for the eradication of tuberculosis in all forms, especially in relation to consumption in the human being and in the milk supply.

That, in the absence of a general Act for the whole country, it is essential, in face of the large mortality in the Riding from such causes, that further powers should be conferred upon the authorities of the Riding.

That the authorities represented here do appoint a deputation to confer with the Local Government Board on the subject.

That in case the Local Government Board do not see their way to introduce in the coming session a Bill for the country at large or the West Riding, the legal advisers of the authorities represented at this conference be requested to draft a Bill on the afore-mentioned subjects.]

*Leeds.*—At the weekly concert given on December 17th, 1900, by the past and present pupils of the Leeds College of Music in aid of the Leeds Hospital for Consumption, Dr. Woodcock took advantage of the interval to say a few words about the

crusade against consumption. He thought that although Leeds had started early in the movement, they had been distanced by Manchester and other towns. They ought to have something more worthy of Leeds than the present small hospital. Manchester had received substantial aid towards a sanatorium in the shape of a gift of £30,000 from Mr. Crossley, and he hoped that some Leeds Crossley would similarly assist their scheme. There were various means of carrying out the scheme for treating consumption—the Crossley method; or a joint hospital committee including the Leeds Infirmary Board, with the infirmary medical staff to staff the hospital; or the municipality might take control; or the municipalities and Boards of Guardians might give a paternal and benevolent support to the Leeds Tuberculosis Committee. He was sure that in any case the movement would be a success, and in the meantime the small hospital or sanatorium on the hills near Otley was doing excellent and successful work.

*Bradford.*—The Bradford branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis are taking action without waiting for a plan to be agreed upon by the whole West Riding. Lectures on tuberculosis and its prevention are being arranged to be given at the Board schools, and the Tramways Committee of the Corporation is to be asked to take steps to prevent spitting in the tramcars. It is suggested that there should be voluntary notification of phthisis, and that farmers and dairymen should give guarantees that the milk supplied by them has been taken from cows free from tuberculosis as ascertained by the tuberculin test.

### NORFOLK.

The Walsingham Guardians at their meeting on November 21st again considered the subject of the open-air treatment of consumptive paupers. Dr. Fisher advised that a shelter should be erected for such patients in the vicinity of the Union house, and that they should be treated for the disease in the Union infirmary. Dr. Skrimshire supported this view, as did also Dr. Pochin. After some remarks by other members of the Board, it was resolved to erect shelters for four patients, and that these patients should be received for treatment into such part of the Union house as should be approved of by Dr. Bateman, the workhouse medical officer. Dr. Bateman, though unable to be present, had written heartily supporting the movement. It was also agreed to approach the County Council with a view of suggesting the provision of a county hospital for consumptives.

### DEVON AND CORNWALL.

The Cornwall Association for the Prevention of Consumption has issued a letter to county and district councils in which they are asked to give their support to a sanatorium for Devon and Cornwall by maintaining free beds at a cost of £50 each per annum. Assured of the maintenance of a certain number of beds, the Association would be in a position to proceed with the scheme. In order to collect evidence of the state of sanitary knowledge and "conscience" in the West of England, the various councils are also requested to state if regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders for 1855 and 1899 have been made and carried out by them; whether inspection of cows whose milk is for sale is practised; and whether they are in favour of a voluntary notification of phthisis, the disinfection of sputa and of rooms at the public expense, and of affording bacteriological facilities for diagnosis.

### SCOTLAND.

*Consumption Sanatoria of Scotland, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.*—In the annual report of the Consumption Sanatoria of Scotland regret is expressed by the Medical Advisory Board that the work at Bridge of Weir is still restricted to women patients, though the provision of accommodation for males is much required. Since November 1st, 1899, 81 patients had been admitted, which, with the 25 patients remaining in the institution on that date, gives a total of 106 patients treated during the year; of these, 66 had been discharged after an average residence of 134 days. The results obtained were very encouraging, and as good as could be expected considering the stage of the disease in the patients treated. It is a matter for regret that consumptive persons are not sent into

the sanatorium before the disease has become advanced; this is attributed chiefly to the unwillingness of sufferers amongst the working classes to give up work until compelled by debility, and the opinion was expressed that medical men might advise removal to the sanatorium earlier. Of the cases treated, 20 per cent. are reported cured, 28 per cent. almost well, and 25 per cent. very much improved; all the cases save 1 have improved. All gained in weight, the average weekly gain being 1 lb. 4½ oz. The result of inquiry into the after-history of 79 patients who have been traced showed that in 44 recovery or improvement was maintained, 18 had relapsed, and 17 had died. The dispensary work in connection with the sanatorium, which was primarily intended for the examination of applicants for admission, gives an opportunity for alleviating the condition of cases unsuitable for sanatorium treatment. Appended to the report are statistics showing the ages and occupations of the patients treated and the parts of Scotland from which they have been received, together with a weather report for the year. Dr. Thompson Campbell, the medical officer of the sanatorium, may be congratulated on an interesting report of a good year's work.

#### BRISTOL.

A meeting of the Grand Committee of the Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and Wiltshire Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other forms of Tuberculosis was held at the Medical Wing of University College on December 3rd, 1900. The Lord Mayor, Mr. J. Colthurst Godwin, presided, and stated that this was the first meeting of the Grand Committee, and that certain proposals of an important nature would be brought forward which he hoped would receive wide publicity. Dr. Lionel Weatherly read the report of the Executive Committee, which stated that since July of the present year a large number of prominent persons in the three counties had been enrolled as vice-presidents, and that as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, M.P., had not seen his way, on account of his parliamentary duties, to undertake the office of President, they had requested Sir John Dickson-Poynder, M.P., to accept that position, and he had consented. A small Committee had been appointed to undertake the great practical work of the Branch—namely, the establishment of a sanatorium for the poor, and they had found near the village of Winsley a very desirable site. It was of some fifty acres, situated 432 feet above sea level, and consisted of arable and pasture land and a disused quarry of nearly twenty acres. The site was well wooded with firs, beeches, etc., which would with a small outlay provide sheltered walks. The nearest stations are Bradford-on-Avon and Limpley Stoke. Mr. William Sturge had valued the site at £2,000. The Committee believed that a sanatorium could be built for 60 patients for £13,000, or about £200 per head, which with the cost of the land and £1,000 for equipment would make the required sum for starting £16,000. For maintenance a sum of £4,000 a year would be required, or about £65 a head. They were of opinion that if a well-organised series of meetings were held in the three counties this amount could easily be raised, but in addition to this contributions from working men and groups of persons should be sought. If 300 persons subscribed a penny a week they would support a bed for a whole year, which would mean that they would be entitled to send three or four patients a year. Boards of Guardians had been invited to subscribe in some places, but the Committee deprecated that line of action, as such bodies should provide accommodation for their own cases. The adoption of the report was moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by Mr. Lewis Fry, and carried after a short discussion. The President moved, "That steps be at once taken to put into effect that portion of the Executive Committee's report dealing with the maintenance and building of the sanatorium," and spoke of the importance of the scheme. The resolution was seconded by Major Simpson and carried. A vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for presiding concluded the business.

#### CONSUMPTIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Some interesting correspondence has lately passed between the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and the National Union of Teachers with regard to the question of consumption amongst children attending elementary schools and the ventilation of school buildings. The Union

requested the Association to give them some information and suggestions on these subjects. The Council of the Association expressed the opinion that where the disease is medically recognised in any individual child attending school, it is desirable that such child, both for its own sake and for that of others, should be excluded from school.

In this connection a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Education to the Clerk of the Kingston-on-Thames Union is of importance. In this letter the Secretary of the Board states that, though a tendency to consumption is in itself no bar to attendance at school, a child suffering from actually-developed phthisis ought to stay away. It is further stated that special classes for consumptive children are not desirable.

#### A SANATORIUM FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE, SOMERSET, AND WILTSHIRE.

A meeting was held in Salisbury on December 12th, 1900, in connection with the Gloucestershire, Somerset, and Wiltshire branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption. The Bishop presided, and Sir William Broadbent, on the invitation of the Committee of the branch, addressed the meeting, pointing out how consumption is spread and how it may be prevented. He strongly supported the object of the meeting, which was to provide an open-air sanatorium for the three counties. Other speakers followed, and a resolution proposed by the Dean of Salisbury, pledging the meeting to support the scheme, and to do its utmost to at once raise the necessary funds, was unanimously passed.

#### SANATORIUM FOR PORTSMOUTH.

At a meeting held at Portsmouth on December 28th, 1900, it was decided to celebrate the commencement of the twentieth century by promoting a fund for the establishment of a sanatorium for consumptives on the southern slope of Portsdown Hill overlooking Portsmouth. It is hoped that the War Office, which it is stated contemplates building a garrison hospital on the hill, may be disposed to entertain the proposal to grant a site.

### THE EMPLOYMENT OF UNQUALIFIED PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANTS BY MEDICAL MEN.

At a meeting of the Glasgow Southern Medical Society on December 20th, 1900, Dr. WILLIAM WATSON, President, in the chair, the adjourned discussion on the action of the General Medical Council in its recent decision respecting the sale of drugs and poisons by unqualified drug assistants was continued. In addition to other points, it was shown that by an ordinary interpretation of the word "drugs," which occurred in the indictment, any medical man would be held in the same way guilty should his unqualified drug assistant sell such simple articles as Epsom salts or cream of tartar. It was also pointed out that, if any breach of the law had been committed, the Pharmaceutical Society had power to enforce it in a different Court under the Pharmacy Acts; and that the General Medical Council should not have acted as prosecutors. The following resolutions were carried:

1. That this Society appoint a committee to draw up a representation to the General Medical Council on the points brought out in the discussion of the case of Dr. Thomson, of Airdrie.
2. That the Secretary of this Society be instructed to call a meeting of the general medical practitioners of Glasgow and the West of Scotland at an early date for the consideration of the action of the General Medical Council in their recent decision regarding the sale of drugs and poisons by unqualified assistants.
3. That the Glasgow Southern Medical Society, believing the direct representation of the general medical practitioners of the United Kingdom on the General Medical Council to be inadequate, humbly petition the Medical Council to represent such inadequacy to Her Majesty's Privy Council, in order that the medical practitioners of Glasgow and the West of Scotland may elect an additional representative.

At examinations for inspectors of nuisances, held recently by the Sanitary Institute in London and Manchester, 153 candidates presented themselves, and 73 were successful. At examinations in practical sanitary science held at the same places, 16 candidates presented themselves, at which 5 passed.