

published in June, 1909, for preventing the spread of Mediterranean fever could not, so far, be carried out in their entirety; still the periodical inspection of goats and the destruction of infected animals and the precaution of boiling milk already show a beneficial result. During the year 13,272 goats were examined; 402 were found infected and destroyed. There were 224 cases of phthisis and 161 deaths—a decrease on the number of the previous year, 280 cases with 192 deaths.

Appended to the report is a short note by Dr. Critien on infantile leishmaniasis in Malta, in which he suggests the adoption of certain principles of prevention—namely, the destruction of all ownerless dogs, the keeping of dogs as clean and free from vermin as possible; babies not being allowed to crawl if there is a dog in the house; the isolation of infected children and the thorough disinfection of their clothing.

Malta has a favourable meteorological record, the mean temperature for the year being 63.8° F., the shade maximum temperature recorded during the year being 92.7° F., with a daily average of bright sunshine amounting to 8.2 hours. The rainfall is small, 18.978 in., which fell on seventy-five days.

England and Wales.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

LONDON.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Milk Supply.

In a long report presented to the London County Council on April 2nd the Public Health Committee dealt with the conclusions of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the relations of human and animal tuberculosis and the existing powers of local authorities to prevent the sale of contaminated milk, declaring its opinion that further legislation was urgently required in order to safeguard effectively the milk supply of London. The general conclusions of the Royal Commission, the committee stated, as to the frequency with which infected milk found its way to the public made it apparent that it was the paramount duty of the Council to make further attempts to ensure a pure milk supply for London. In 1909 more than 10,000 deaths from tuberculosis (other than pulmonary tuberculosis) occurred in England and Wales in children under the age of 15. Of this number, 2,806 deaths which took place in children under the age of 5 were attributed to tuberculosis of the digestive system. Having regard to these facts, and putting aside the danger from diseases other than tuberculosis, which did undoubtedly from time to time infect an inadequately supervised milk supply, the committee felt that, although an impure milk supply was only one of various possible and probable sources of tuberculosis, nevertheless it was the duty of public authorities to try and remove any and every cause where possible, and that the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle must be regarded as a public health measure of considerable importance to man. The necessity for legislation to deal with dirty milk was generally appreciated. Examination of samples made for the Council by the Lister Institute showed that a large proportion afforded evidence of undesirable methods of production and handling. Samples of milk containing dung had not been uncommonly noted by the inspectors in the course of their routine work of collecting samples at railway stations. On more than one occasion also samples had been observed to be of a pinkish tint, due to the admixture of blood. Parliamentary action was necessary to arm local authorities with requisite and uniform powers. The powers of public authorities to deal with milk in London at present consisted of the following:

The London County Council.—Power to license cowhouses annually (Section 20 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891). Power to secure proper conditions in cowsheds and dairies and the sanitary condition of milkshops. Power to forbid the use for human food of milk from a diseased cow, or one having tuberculous disease of the udder. (The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885, 1886, and 1899; applicable also

throughout the country.) Power to seize and slaughter on payment of compensation any cow in a London cowshed suspected of tuberculosis of the udder. (Part V of the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1904.) Power to take within and outside the county samples of milk coming into London; to examine suspected cows outside London, and to prohibit the sending of further supplies from an infected source. (Part IV of the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1907.)

The Metropolitan Borough Councils.—Power of registration of dairymen, the enforcement of the various Dairies, etc., Orders; power to prohibit supplies from any infected dairy within the county, to prohibit a person suffering from an infectious disease from milking any animal, to seize any article unfit for human consumption, to refuse to register persons carrying on dairies in unsuitable premises; power of enforcement of sanitary regulations made by the County Council, and powers under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The Local Government Board.—May make regulations relating to the importation of any article of food unfit for human consumption. The Board has issued regulations, which come into force in June, 1912, prohibiting the use of preservatives in milk and cream.

Since the London County Council Powers Act, 1907, had come into operation, the bacteriological examination of 7,896 samples of milk of country origin had been completed, 850 (10.8 per cent.) proving tuberculous, 44,307 cows at 1,622 farms without the county had been examined, and 574, or 1.3 per cent., of the animals proved to be affected with tuberculosis of the udder. It was to be remarked, therefore, that whereas 10.8 per cent. of the milk examined was found to be tuberculous, only 1.3 per cent. of the cows were traced as being tuberculous. The disparity in the percentages was largely accounted for by the fact that milk from various cows was blended in the same railway churn; but, nevertheless, it appeared that more tuberculous animals existed than could be traced under present conditions. The Council had power to prevent the sale, within the county, of milk from cows ascertained to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder only. It was most desirable that this power should be extended to include all cows suffering from tuberculosis with emaciation, or giving tuberculous milk, and the Council had already urged this upon Parliament. Moreover, although the Council could exclude from London milk from a farm without the county, which on examination was proved to be tuberculous, it had no power to require the slaughter or prevent the removal of the animal giving such milk. Consequently, if the animal was moved, all trace of it might be lost, and its milk would be sold for human consumption until again detected. Further, the Council had no powers to deal with milk which, on examination, was deemed to be so filthy as to be unfit for human food.

The Public Health Committee recapitulated the attempts made by the Council to obtain from Parliament the extensions of its powers suggested above. Since 1907 proposals by the Council had been withdrawn or rejected in favour of a plan for dealing with the question on national lines. Pressure of other business, however, has led to the continual postponement of a Government measure. The Committee expressed its agreement with the principle of a settlement of the question on national lines. The proposals made by the Council were necessarily limited in extent, and general legislation was more desirable. To deal in an effective and uniform manner with the question as affecting the whole country, legislation was required in one consolidating Act. In the opinion of the Committee the following points, *inter alia*, appeared to require the consideration of Parliament:

1. To make it possible to deal with a cow suffering from any form of tuberculosis, and to prohibit the sale of its milk.
2. Further powers of supervision of buildings where cows are kept or milk exposed for sale.
3. Power to take samples in any place from the time the milk leaves the cow to the time it reaches the consumer.
4. Adequate penalties to deter from wilful breaches of the law.
5. The more complete supervision of the import trade with a view to providing that imported milk, equally with home-produced milk, shall be subject to proper control.

The Public Health Committee advised that a deputation should wait upon the President of the Local Government Board to urge the importance of effective general legislation with regard to the milk supply being speedily promoted. Failing such general legislation, however, the Government should be urged to assist the Council in its efforts to safeguard London's milk supply, notwithstanding the fact that general legislation would be more satisfactory. In the unfortunate event of the Council having

to renew its own local efforts it should seek to obtain powers as follows:

1. To extend the provisions of Part IV of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1904, to any cow suffering from any form of tuberculosis, with emaciation, or giving tuberculous milk, and to the milk of any such cow.

2. Any necessary additional powers to take samples anywhere within the county of milk and milk products in transit and in wholesale and retail establishments; and in the event of such milk being found to be adulterated or unfit for human food to proceed for penalties.

3. Powers for the Council to make orders prohibiting the supply of milk into the county from the dairies or dépôts without the county from which such impure milk was obtained.

4. Such additional powers (if any) as were necessary to enable sanitary authorities to take samples other than on railway premises, and to proceed for penalties.

5. Powers to enable the Council, at its discretion, to pay expenses of any dairyman appearing before it to show cause why an order should not be made requiring him not to supply milk from specified animals.

6. For the application within the county of Section 53 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act (1907), which provides that, if the medical officer certifies to the local authority that any person is suffering from infectious disease which the medical officer has reason to think is attributable to the milk supply within the district, the local authority may require the dairyman to furnish a complete list of all the farms, dairies, or places from which his supply of milk has been derived during the last six weeks.

The report was approved and a deputation appointed to wait on the President of the Local Government Board.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

Dr. Priestley, the Medical Officer of Health for Lambeth, presented recently to the Public Health Committee a report in which he expressed the opinion that it had become necessary to take measures to classify consumptive patients, and consequently that a tuberculosis dispensary was necessary; an institution primarily established for the examination and treatment, including tuberculin injections of patients, but chiefly useful in the discovery of cases in the early stages of the disease. It was from the tuberculosis dispensaries that the sanatoriums and hospitals or infirmaries would be fed, and the dispensary might best be described as a "sifting" or "classifying" organization. Such dispensaries were also of value educationally in the same way, but not to the same extent as sanatoriums, whilst the leaflets dealing with simple precautionary measures that would be distributed broadcast, would assist in the dissemination of simple knowledge as to the nature and prevention of the disease. At the meeting of the borough council, on March 28th, a letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that the committee recently appointed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would report at an early date upon the consideration of general policy in respect of the problem of tuberculosis in the United Kingdom in its preventive, curative, and other respects, which should guide the Government and local bodies in making or aiding provision for the treatment of tuberculosis in sanatoriums or other institutions, or otherwise. The Board has deferred consideration of questions on the subject until the committee has reported. The borough council decided to adjourn the consideration of the establishment of a dispensary until the report of the committee has been presented.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT.

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

The financial condition of the Institute calls, it would appear, for serious consideration on the part of the members. Last year, with the aid of a sum of £50 paid by the British Medical Association for the use of rooms in connexion with the annual meeting of the Association, the income and expenditure were nearly equal, but at present there seems to be no prospect of meeting the expenditure for this year. Then, again, no addition has been made to the fund for depreciation of the leasehold during the past two years. It is considered necessary, therefore, that a serious effort should be made to raise a sufficient sum, amounting to about £2,000, to equalize the income and expenditure of the institute if it is to continue in existence, and to provide for the redemption of the leasehold building in the future. A room in the basement of the institute has been let to the Birmingham Branch of the British Medical Association at an annual rental of £12.

Mr. Christopher Martin has presented a Leitz epidiascope, and is defraying the cost of its installation. The library now consists of 14,853 volumes, and during the past year 147 volumes have been added, including a total of seventy-three gifts. Sixty-six periodicals are supplied to the reading room, and of these thirty-nine are foreign and twenty-seven British. The income for the past year was £522, and the expenditure £519.

BIRMINGHAM SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

The sanatorium for the educational treatment of consumption which was established in Yardley Road by the Birmingham Corporation has been so successful that the Public Health and Housing Committee has prepared a scheme for its extension. The old small-pox hospital was adapted in the first instance, and for the last twelve months a considerable number of patients have been treated. The patients were detained for about six weeks, and during that time they were instructed so as to apply the treatment for themselves when they returned home. In addition these patients also attend the tuberculin dispensary which has been established by the committee in Edmund Street. The existing accommodation at Yardley Road Sanatorium is for between fifty and sixty patients, and the committee desire to provide accommodation for another 150, including children. Altogether eleven sites have been visited, and the committee has decided to recommend to the City Council an extension of the sanatorium in Yardley Road in preference to the erection of a building elsewhere. The necessity for the increased accommodation has been intensified by the extension of the city boundaries, by the fact that no provision exists for the treatment of consumptive children, and because, now that the notification of all cases of consumption is compulsory, more than 100 cases a week are, on the average, reported to the medical officers of health.

TUBERCULOSIS EXHIBITION.

The National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has arranged for an Exhibition in Birmingham during the first fortnight in July. A strong local committee has been formed, and the Corporation has granted the use of the Town Hall for the Exhibition. During the time the Exhibition is open a lecture on the subject of the prevention of tuberculosis will be given each evening—probably in the lecture room under the Town Hall, which has seating accommodation for about 500 persons.

KING EDWARD VII WARWICKSHIRE MEMORIAL.

The executive committee of the King Edward VII Warwickshire Memorial has now completed its arrangements for the purchase of the site selected on Binton Hill, about four miles west of Stratford-on-Avon, for the purpose of erecting a sanatorium. The property is to be temporarily conveyed into the names of Mr. Arthur James (Chairman), Lord Algernon Percy, and Mr. Broughton Dugdale, pending the names of the permanent trustees and the trusts of the deed being definitely decided on.

WALSALL HOSPITAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.

The total amount received in 1911 was £285, as against £281 in the previous year, in spite of the fact that the number of contributing congregations has diminished from forty-seven to forty-four. It has been decided for a deputation to wait on all non-contributing churches.

Scotland.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS.]

GOVAN SCHOOL BOARD.

THE report of the chief medical officer for the year ending June, 1911, states that 11,599 routine examinations and 3,989 non-routine examinations were made. The medical officers examined 3,594 necessitous school children; only 5 per cent. were noted as having bad nutrition. Clothing seems to have been satisfactory, as only 7 per cent. were returned as not being sufficiently clad, 7 per cent. were returned as fairly or badly clad, and only 27 children had markedly insufficient clothing. Vermineous or dirty conditions were prevalent, and were noted in 13 per cent. of the boys and 31 per cent. of the girls. It