

from the slum of charlatanism to the present high position which it occupied to-day. In this connexion he mentioned in particular Robert Hepburn, Underwood, Ibbetson and Sir John Tomes. He was much struck by the school buildings; they were admirably complete, everything desirable being provided, but not a shilling wasted on luxurious fittings. As a whole it was an admirable object lesson, well calculated to teach the philanthropic public to support not only hospitals but their schools. Dental students had fought for and obtained from the Royal College of Surgeons a constitution in the shape of a syllabus, but he hoped they would nevertheless take a broadminded view of their work and not strive merely to reach a syllabus standard of knowledge.

The toast was acknowledged by Mr. J. H. HALE, Chairman of the Board of Management, and by Mr. COLYER, the Dean. The former alluded to the need of the hospital for further financial support, and the latter, in addition to giving some details of the work of the school, spoke of the effort being made to educate not only its students but the public also, both by the general rules which were enforced upon patients, and by a little book on the care of the teeth which was being distributed.

The toast of "The Visitors" having been proposed by Mr. DOLAMORE and acknowledged by Mr. ADDISON, Mr. JOHN ACKERY proposed the final toast of the evening, that of "The Chairman," in which he mentioned Mr. Matheson's recent election to the Presidency of the British Dental Association. Mr. MATHESON terminated his reply by suggesting that he and all were merely striving to pay their debts; as Wordsworth's Old Shepherd had said when explaining why he had tried to be a good father:

Herein I but repay
The gift I have received at others' hands.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

MANCHESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

INCORPORATED in the report of the Education Committee of the City of Manchester for 1904-5 is a report on his work presented by Dr. A. Brown Kitchie, from which we quote the following:

Eyesight and Hearing.

The Medical Officer has pleasure in reporting that the scheme for the testing of the eyesight of the school children is now being carried out to the full extent, and all children in Standards II and above have now been tested, and the test will be repeated every two years. The schools are taken in rotation—last year Standard II of the municipal schools and Standards II and above of the non-provided; this year Standard II of the non-provided and Standards II and above of the municipal. The total number of children tested was 32,486, of whom 2,126 were found to be suffering from defects of such gravity as to warrant a circular being sent to the parents. 316 cases of defective hearing were reported, and in 119 cases the parents were advised of some defect.

In connexion with the testing of hearing, the Medical Officer expected in the returns now coming in a large increase in the numbers reported. This has proved to be the case, and, owing to the greater familiarity of the teachers with the work,

the number has so increased as to amount to a very large item in the coming year's work.

The system of testing the sight and hearing having now been in force for two years, it is possible to form some idea of the result. It is gratifying to be able to say that in a large proportion of the children found defective, medical advice has been sought, and in the case of those suffering from defective vision, many have had glasses supplied through the Education Committee's scheme for aiding those unable to pay for glasses themselves.

Infectious Disease.

A very large number of visits have been paid to the schools in connexion with infectious disease, and, with the help of the teachers, every effort is made to exclude all children suffering from or suspected to be suffering from any infectious or contagious disease. The Medical Officer is able to report distinct progress in the manner in which those cases are recognized by the teachers, and in many cases the teachers notify the Medical Officer of the occurrence of outbreaks without waiting for the weekly return shown below.

The Medical Officer is now called upon in an increasing number of cases to give advice with regard to children other than those suffering from infectious disease, and in this work there is the possibility of great good being done, though at present only a very limited number of children can be examined.

During the winter months, a series of these addresses on infectious diseases, eyesight, hearing, and general hygiene of schools, was given to the teachers of the elementary schools. The attendance was voluntary, but so large a number of tickets was applied for that the series had to be repeated. In all, 1,200 tickets were issued, and a very large proportion of the ticket holders attended the addresses. These addresses will be printed for circulation, and it is hoped that a copy will soon be in the hands of every teacher.

As a further development of the experiment of giving these addresses, arrangements have now been made for the medical officer to deliver to the pupil teachers attending the training centre a series of twelve lectures on school hygiene. By this means it is hoped that the pupils will begin their career as teachers with much knowledge which has hitherto not been available to the seniors, or only acquired after years of experience.

Underfeeding.

With regard to the question of badly-nourished children, the medical officer has made an exhaustive inquiry dealing with over 10,000 children, and a full report with statistics has now been handed to the Director of Elementary Education for submission.

The honorary staffs of the Manchester Eye and Ear Hospitals have given valuable aid in examining the large numbers of school children who have visited their institutions as a result of the Committee's notification to the parents that the children were suffering from serious eye or ear trouble.

Cookery Instruction.

A woman superintendent has been appointed to deal with the control and organization of the cookery instruction for girls in the public elementary schools. There have been 4,428 girls under instruction during the year.

.....Department School

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III.—CHILDREN ABSENT OWING TO INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

Measles.		Whooping cough.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Chicken-pox.		Ringworm.	Any other Infectious Sickness.	
No. Absent Actually Suffering from Measles.	No. Absent owing to Measles in the Home.	No. Absent Actually Suffering from Whooping cough.	No. Absent owing to Whooping-cough in the Home.	No. Absent Actually Suffering from Scarlet Fever.	No. Absent owing to Scarlet Fever in the Home.	No. Absent Actually Suffering from Diphtheria.	No. Absent owing to Diphtheria in the Home.	No. Absent Actually Suffering from Chicken-pox.	No. Absent owing to Chicken-pox in the Home.	No. Absent owing to Ringworm in the Home.	No. Absent Actually Suffering from	No. Absent owing to
(Signed)												
New												
Old												

Principal Teacher.

Country School.

The following is a brief description of the country school carried on for the benefit of Manchester children:

A corrugated iron school building, with dormitories and dining hall to accommodate 80 children, has been erected at Knolls Green ($\frac{3}{8}$ miles from Mobberley Station, Cheshire), in a thoroughly rural spot, on about five acres of land.

Relays of children, boys and girls alternately, have been sent with their teachers from the Manchester elementary schools during the summer months. The children carry on a modification of their ordinary school work, giving much time to object lessons on their rambles, to gardening, and to open-air pursuits of varied kinds.

The time tables have been so arranged that the greatest possible good may be got out of a short stay in the country. The children's attendances have been counted in their own schools. This was done with the approval of the Board of Education. There is an experienced matron, and every care has been taken of the children's health. This year the country school has been open from April 24th to October 7th, and over 900 children have enjoyed a fortnight's stay. At Whitsuntide about 80 children went from the schools for mentally-deficient children, and during the midsummer holidays 209 children from Mill Street Day Industrial School were in residence for three weeks, the boys (156) being housed in tents. This country school is carried on by a voluntary Committee.

School Playgrounds.

The Committee opened certain school playgrounds for the general use of children from May 2nd to September 30th from 4.30 p.m. to dusk every week-day except Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to dusk every Saturday and every week-day during the school holidays.

Defective and Epileptic Children.

Three special day schools for mentally-defective children are maintained by the Committee. A number of children are also sent to the Sandlebridge Residential Schools by arrangement with the Committee of that institution.

During the year a residential school for epileptic children has been opened at the Manchester David Lewis Epileptic Colony at Sandlebridge. The school is certified by the Board of Education for 42 children.

Crippled Children.

The instruction of crippled children has engaged the careful attention of the Committee during the year, and a residential school has been opened for thirty children. The school will provide ample accommodation for an extension of the work.

Industrial Schools.

The number of children in the residential industrial schools continues to decrease. The number so maintained a year ago was 489, compared with 479 at the present date. This is evidence of continued improvement in the general condition of street children, a result, no doubt, largely due to the excellent police supervision of those engaged in the selling of newspapers, etc.

LITERARY NOTES.

ON November 1st the *Revue de Déontologie* ("Déontologie" being interpreted means medical ethics) ceased to be the organ of the Corporate Association of the Medical Students of Paris.

A correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* recalls the fact that in Taylor's *Life of Old Parr* it is stated that

He was of old Pythagoras's opinion,
That green cheese was most wholesome with an onion,
Coarse Meslin bread; and for his daily swig,
Milk, butter-milk, and water, whey, and whig.

The writer thinks this quotation affords corroborative evidence of the sour-milk theory of longevity. The diet is sufficiently indigestible for ordinary stomachs to arouse enthusiasm in the bosom of the faddist. But before trying it one would like some better assurance than is likely to be forthcoming at this time of day that Old Parr really lived to anything like the age claimed for him by his biographers. It may further be pointed out that the diet as described is not exactly the "sour milk" recommended by Professor Metchnikoff as the *elixir vitae*, the right brand of which, we believe, is to be procured only at a particular establishment. But even if we were sure that the systems of Old Parr and M. Metchnikoff would prolong our life to years beyond those of Methuselah,

we should prefer a shorter span of existence with a more cheerful diet than green cheese and sour milk.

Dr. James Peddie Steele of Florence, a retired physician, well known as a contributor to the *Lancet*, has offered a prize of 100 guineas for the best essay on Sixteenth Century Humanism as illustrated by the Life and Work of George Buchanan, the competition to be open to alumni of the four Scottish universities. George Buchanan is perhaps best known at the present day as the tutor of James I of England, whom, in his own words, he made the most learned fool in Europe. His accuracy as a historian has been impugned, but of his scholarship his Latin version of the Psalms remains as a witness. This forms a link of interest between him and Dr. Steele who is also an accomplished writer of Latin verse. On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria he contributed to the *Lancet* a Latin ode in alcaic metre. The four hundredth anniversary of George Buchanan's birth is to be celebrated by the University of St. Andrews in April, 1906.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

BURIAL OF PAUPERS.

B. A. writes: The relieving officer of a country district refuses to bury the paupers dying in the hospital. By 16 and 17 Vict., cap. 97, sect. 120, paupers dying in lunatic asylums and registered hospitals are to be buried by the union.

* * The relieving officer is acting according to law. In Glen's *Poor-law Orders*, p. 422, footnote, will be found the following: The guardians of a union are not under any legal obligation to bury the bodies of persons dying in public hospitals (Reg. v. Stewart, 12 A. and E. 773). The exercise of the power given by 7 and 8 Vict., c. 101, s. 31, is only discretionary on the part of the guardians, who may decline to undertake to bury any dead body, not being in the workhouse, if they think fit so to do. Some hospitals have printed forms, which they require to be filled in before admitting an in-patient, whereby some householder guarantees to be responsible for such burial if the necessity should arise. The reference to paupers in asylums, etc., has no bearing on this point.

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

THE area of the administrative county of the West Riding is $1\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, and the population is only slightly less (1,442,280). There are 160 sanitary authorities, and thus Dr. Kaye's report covers the sanitary work of a wide area and of a number of different authorities. For 1904 the birth-rate was 27.7, a further decline on 1903, and the death-rate was 16.5. The infantile mortality-rate was 1.47 per 1,000 births. During the year Dr. Kaye made 146 official visits to different parts of the Riding, and supervised a large amount of public health work. As many as 2,310 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts were taken, which with 284 further samples taken by the local authorities made a total of 2,594, of which 81 (3 per cent.) were adulterated. In 1893 22 per cent. of the samples taken were adulterated, so that a marked improvement has occurred. Much additional work has been undertaken in connexion with the Midwives Act and the supervision of schools, the medical and sanitary work of the Education Committee being placed under the direction of the county medical officer. The zymotic death-rate for 1904 was 2.2 as compared with 1.8 for the last five years. This rise is largely due to the prevalence of small-pox, of which there were 2,191 cases with 170 deaths. But scarlet fever (5,849 cases with 507 deaths), diphtheria (1,363 cases with 243 deaths), and enteric fever (1,225 cases with 237 deaths) also contributed. There were in addition 712 deaths from measles, 471 from whooping-cough, and 1,115 from diarrhoea. The cancer death-rate continues to rise (0.80 per 1,000). Dr. Kaye includes in his report particulars as to hospitalisation, water supply, drainage and sewerage, scavenging, etc., and interesting sections on the paving of streets and yards, lead poisoning, school hygiene, and dairies and cowsheds. An examination of district water supplies revealed the fact that 25 contained no lead in solution, 8 contained less than $\frac{1}{16}$ gr. per gallon, and 10 contained more than that amount. The fourth annual report of the work of the bacteriological laboratory is appended. Diphtheria swabs, Widal's serum diagnosis, tuberculous sputa, and a number of miscellaneous specimens have been examined, numbering in all 2,234.

DERBYSHIRE.

THE estimated population of the administrative county of Derby at the middle of 1904 was 517,276. The birth-rate was 31.48, the lowest on record; the infant mortality-rate was 1.57 per 1,000 births, and the death-rate was 14.8. Dr. Sidney Barwise, the County Medical Officer of Health, furnishes an admirable report on the sanitary work undertaken during the year. Small-pox was again somewhat prevalent (146 cases and 8 deaths), and scarlet fever more prevalent than at any time during the last five years (2,094 cases, with a mortality per cent. of 3.40). The cases of enteric fever numbered 352, and Dr. Barwise considers the prevalence of the disease is due "to the degrading privy-midden system." He adds that, "comparing houses of less than £10 annual rental which have privy middens with those that have waterclosets, it has been found that the incidence of typhoid fever is four times greater in the houses with privy middens," and he recommends the adoption of waterclosets and the paving of back yards. Diphtheria was responsible for 552 cases. Much attention is being given to the prevention of phthisis and to school hygiene, and Dr. Barwise inserts a useful summary of the progress which has taken place in the