

from time to time. There is a great addition to the normal import of dirt by broken or rough shoes and stockings, and what difficulties may arise in healthfulness, school dust under the conditions will greatly increase. In the examination of nearly three thousand children, six per cent. were found with defective clothing or footgear. A quarter of those whose records could be easily completed were from families of seven to twelve children, while two-thirds were from families in which there were four or more children. It is thus evident that an excuse exists for the larger part of the number. In connection with this investigation, Dr. Burnet finds that many children are undergoing what may be termed a "hardening" process, to which they seem to offer no complaint. This is due, no doubt, in many instances to the poverty of the parents or their indifference, and the knowledge on the part of the children that their complaints would be unavailing. "It is impossible to teach children effectively whose nervous energy is being exhausted in the effort to keep the body warm," writes this authority, "and in this connection it should be remembered that the child has relatively a greater surface for body cooling than the adult, hence the fallacy of keeping children in socks instead of stockings, or, in fact, subjecting them to any of the 'hardening' processes by limiting the amount of their wearing apparel."

In this connection the Lancashire working-people's familiar clog is far superior to the shoes in the opinion of hygienists, since the latter are far too often inferior in quality, especially the expensive kinds, and are ineffective in keeping the feet dry. On the other hand, the clogs make much more noise, but in a conference with the local teachers, the obvious advantages were found to outweigh this defect. In addition, in a moist climate like Bury, the clogs carry much less dirt into the recitation rooms. As many boys had dirty clothing as those with insufficient, but in the girls cleanliness was much more evident, and the ratio between dirty and insufficient was only about half. The girls' care was further shown by the fact that only one girl was ragged—and this at the age of five—while about a third of the boys were in this condition, mostly at seven and eight. In his inspection of the children, Dr. Burnet calls attention to the fact that vermin

are attracted more readily and seem to thrive quite as well on some children, who may be kept just as clean as some others. The selection is usually determined by the presence of certain diseases or a condition of the blood predisposing them to disease. It is also true that dirt attracts vermin, and a normal clean child should not attract them so readily as a dirty one. The importance of an eye to these conditions in school children is the greater since the disease factor probably makes the verminous child a propagator also of disease. In the medical examination of the eyes, a large percentage, more than two, are troubled with strabismus in one form or another. The number of girls thus affected is about double that of boys. Some of the statistics with reference to defective conditions are interesting in that the number of children in Bury is sufficiently large to be a measure of the usual conditions, yet small enough to afford a pretty close examination. Four per cent. were found to be suffering with external eye disease other than squint, and eleven per cent. had defective vision. Fourteen per cent. suffered from ear disease, chiefly otorrhœa, and two per cent. had hearing affected, two-fifths of which were associated with adenoids. The record for the latter is large, seventeen per cent. of all the children examined. Two per cent. of the children were found to be backward, of which one-quarter were classed as defective. Tuberculosis of the lungs was diagnosed in nearly one per cent. of the children, and one-quarter of one per cent. had tuberculosis of the bones or joints. Rickets proves to be a serious matter in Bury, with seven per cent. of the school children suffering from the disease. The history of the majority showed them to have been bottle-fed. It is characterized by Dr. Burnet as a disease of the overcrowded town and associated with unsuitable food in infancy. The disease may be treated with success if taken in time, and it is the custom in Bury to visit the home of the patient, giving to the parents instructions for the cure or prevention. In Bury the practice obtains of furnishing food to school children, it being prepared at a central place and distributed to certain selected dining-rooms by street cars.

Pilgrim Vaccination in India.

The Commissioner of Police, Bombay, has sent the following letter, says *Times*