

home. The individual home with the individual garden was the nursery of that individuality of character essential to a great nation.

In the Public Health Section there was an interesting discussion on the medical treatment of children under school age.

Dr. Bygott said most authorities entirely lost sight of a child after it was a year old, and did not meet it again until its arrival at school at an age which varied from three to five years. During the time that it learned to talk and walk it was quite uncared for, except by its mother, who was generally an unskilled maid-of-all-work. Some improved care for young children was absolutely necessary for the prosperity of the nation.

The South African Medical Congress.

The 13th South African Medical Congress was held at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, recently. Sir Kendal Franks, who presided, said there was probably scarcely a country in the world which more required a strong, efficient, and energetic Department of Public Health than did South Africa. In the first place, they were faced with several large problems, which would require the best energies of the most vigorous experts to solve, and, in the next place, the administration of public health was in a most disgraceful condition. The whole profession had laid before the Government what, in its opinion, was the remedy. The Government promised to bring in a Public Health Bill for the Union—and it did. This Bill was another instance of keeping its promise to the ear and breaking to the hope. They pleaded that there were already too many portfolios. There had been a Medical Officer of Health in each of the colonies prior to Union, and in Natal there had also been a Board of Health. Under the new Bill these would all be abolished, and Clause 6 provided that in any existing law, wherever the term Medical Officer, Health Officer, or Board of Health was used, should, after the passing of this Bill, be read the Minister of the Interior. Then Clause 7 allowed the Governor-General to appoint a Medical Officer of Health for the Union, with so many Assistant Medical Of-

ficers of Health and Additional Medical Officers of Health as he might deem necessary. There was no cohesion among all these. They were all advisers to the Minister of the Interior and independent of each other. Such a system, Sir Kendal maintained, was bound to lead to inefficiency and confusion.

Tuberculosis in European Armies.

According to the statistics gathered by M. Poulle, a French deputy, concerning the prevalence of consumption in European armies the rate of tubercular cases per thousand from 1903 to 1907 works out as follows: Italy 1.73, Bavaria 1.89, Germany 1.91, England 2.50, Russia 3.64, Austria 3.72, Belgium 4.60, Roumania 4.91, France 6.72, Spain, 7.32.

Since 1888, in France, there has been a large increase in the number of tubercular cases in the army, yet curiously enough a corresponding proportionate decrease in the number of deaths.

In 1909, no fewer than 7,500 conscripts were exempted from service because of tubercular complaints, and another 2,500 were rejected because of their weak condition.

It has been ascertained in those countries where consumption is found in the army that the disease is only prevalent among recruits, and is seldom found among the older soldiers. The sudden development of mild cases of the white plague that are so frequent amongst recruits is easily accounted for. Young men are taken away from a sedentary life, perhaps as clerks, to active work in the open air. The first effect on those who have the tuberculous taint is to increase the activity of the latent microbe. The result is that those who cannot fight down the trouble are killed. The rest are soon cured by the process known as auto-inoculation. Nature asserts herself by killing the unfit and curing the fit. Nevertheless there is always the danger of infection.

Energetic action is being taken by the French Minister of War to campaign against the spread of consumption among the young men of France, who should come to their military service in good