

THE EMPIRE AND THE WORLD ABROAD

Report of British Commission on Tuberculosis Treatment.

The British Government some time ago appointed a commission to investigate the treatment of tuberculosis, particularly in hospitals or sanatoria. The commission's report just published is strong in its endorsement of the sanatorium system. It does not urge that all patients should be sent to such institutions, recognizing that the virtue of private administration by the same methods is in many cases possible, and in some preferable. But insistence is placed on the fact that the treatment should be made available to all persons suffering from tubercular ailments, and to that end the sanatoria should be provided. In addition dispensaries are recommended as receiving homes, centres of diagnosis and general information bureaux as well as agencies for curative treatment. These, the commission thinks, should be provided for city population at the rate of one for every 150,000 or 200,000, and for smaller numbers in rural population. For the United Kingdom the establishment of 225 to 300 of these dispensaries is recommended. The commission admits that treatment in sanatoria has not always been up to the mark. It attributes this to neglect of early symptoms through public ignorance of their promptest treatment. Further shortcomings are classed under the head of unsuitable cases admitted and subjected to continuous treatment. Lack of proper care after leaving the institutions is also put down as a fault, and additionally the inability of having always expert physicians and the consequent administration of sanatoria more as homes than as therapeutic institutions. These unfavorable conditions, however, the report continues, are being abated, and as this is so the efficiency of sanatorium treatment is increasing and is gaining a wider recognition.

The Agenda Club.

The increasing interest taken by the British public in the national health is manifested in a new form. A remarkably successful organization, called the

"Agenda Club" (things to be done), was founded last year by a group of engineers for the purpose of improving the national health of Great Britain.

The means adopted are exceedingly practical, for example, kinetograph films are exhibited showing: (1) How to dust a room. (2) How to wash a baby. (3) How rats spread disease. (4) What unfiltered water contains. (5) The right and wrong kind of girl to marry.

Local committees have been formed all over the country at places having an aggregate population of 3,000,000 for the purpose of giving synchronized attention to problems of public health in and through any agency, official, public or private, which at any point touches the problem of health.

The object is not only to combat ignorance and apathy among the poor and ignorant, but to win the intelligent support of citizens for the constructive work of health officers and school medical officers.

It is proposed to collect not money, but services, to this end, and in a thousand ways along the lines of each one's profession or opportunities, and to drive home the concrete statistical facts of the waste of national health and life—tragical facts of death and disease, hopeful facts as to what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished. The results achieved are already far beyond the highest expectation of the club.

The latest project is the establishment of what is called the "National Health Week," and this has been taken up all over the country. In a considerable number of churches of all creeds the affinity of cleanliness to godliness and other hygienic points were emphasized on a recent Sunday.

One preacher contrasted the loss of 1,600 lives of the Titanic with the 50,000 preventable annual deaths from tuberculosis. Another referred to the fact that out of 1,000,000 children born in a year 106,000 died before they were a year old and that many of these deaths could have been prevented.