

SOCIAL SERVICE AND HOSPITAL EFFICIENCY.

(40,000 patients in out clinics in 1912); to Dr. C. Morton Smith, of the Boston Dispensary; to Dr. Menass Gregory and Miss Mary Wadley, of the Bellevue and Allied Hospitals of New York.

Hospital cures cannot be effective if patients are turned out of ward beds too soon in order to make room for worse cases than their own, or if they require subsequent treatment which they are not in a position to follow. After-care is needed to prevent John X. from progressing from one hospital ward, where his diagnosis was pneumonia to another ward or hospital with a diagnosis of tuberculosis, all for the want of an overcoat, perhaps, when he left the ward in the very early stage of convalescence. If the social worker is not at hand to help James S., surgical case, discharged as improved but needing dressings, what is to become of him, living alone, unable to work, with room rent overdue? Even if he were able to work, what employment would permit of his taking practically three half days a week to wait sometimes two hours for his turn in a crowded clinic? Here we have a vagrant in the making unless he has the proper nourishment to build him up and means are found to house him and let him take his treatment. Half measures are sheer waste and a case should be seen through to a practical conclusion. Each disease and each individual require different social as well as medical treatment, and kindly common sense must supplement the doctor's orders. Cases of tuberculosis, perhaps, need to be placed in institutions or under class treatment. They may require home nursing or mountain air, and the patient or family may need to be supported during the time of treatment. Precautions must often be taken against contagion—new cases are frequently found during visits to the home and investigation of conditions there. Help may be needed in finding or changing work for cases of discharged tuberculosis, typhoid, alcoholism, heart disease, industrial diseases, chronic joints, etc.; and the general work of instruction in hygiene of the person and home has always to be pressed by a social worker in order to supplement the work of the doctor in the ward or clinic. Here we have poor William M., ill for two years with abscess and sub-