

there is a growing feeling at the leading hospitals that more definitely practical instruction should take the place of some of the regular courses of lectures. Thus at Guy's an innovation of this kind has lately been under consideration, it being not unlikely that at this school certain of the purely theoretical lectures will be permanently replaced by "clinical" demonstrations—that is, by teaching illustrated by actual cases of illness or accident.

Lord Mersey and the Bishop of Stepney have published their report of an investigation as to the system prevailing in London in regard to the admission of out-patients to hospitals. It does not appear, they say, that there is any appreciable abuse of hospitals by really well-to-do people. But there is probably good reason for the feeling on the part of the general practitioners that many patients who could without hardship afford the small charge made by them for ordinary ailments are treated at the hospitals, while there is much stronger evidence that the out-patient departments are used on a large scale by the class of patients able to make provision for ordinary ailments by means of provident dispensaries or clubs. There is want of proportion between the distribution of out-patient accommodation and the distribution of population. South London being the worst off in this respect, while generally the outlying districts suffer and the centre is over-supplied.

N. R. W. Nielsen, formerly Minister for Lands, who represented the New South Wales Government at the Chicago Irrigation Congress, and afterwards conducted an investigation into the irrigation methods of the United States, has issued a report, in which he says that the eastern coast of Australia can be made quite as productive as any similar area in any part of the United States or Canada. He recommends the Government to undertake extensive irrigation works, declaring that the cost of these would be amply repaid. Mr. Nielsen also recommends the organization of a general scheme of immigration

from the United States and Canada, the New South Wales Government undertaking to pay a proportion of the fares of those persons possessing a certain amount of capital. Another scheme proposed by Mr. Nielsen is the establishment of a permanent commercial commissioner's office on the west coast of America for the promotion of trade with Australia, for which he declares there is an almost unlimited scope.

A serious attempt to investigate what may be called the hygiene of sport is about to be made in Berlin. To carry out the objects in view a sport laboratory is to be established and placed under the charge of the Charlottenburg municipal authorities. The idea had its origin in a department of the hygiene exhibition held recently at Dresden, in which everything that could throw light on the influence of sports and gymnastic exercises on the human organism was brought together. Special attention was paid to bodily measurements arising under different conditions and from different muscular exercises, and particular observation was directed to the good and harmful effects of the several sports and gymnastics on the human body and its members. One of the chief objects of the new laboratory will be the observation of all that possibly affects school children in respect of food and physical exercises.

#### Advance Notices, Alphabetical.

*Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire*, Toronto, Ontario, in 1915.

*Royal Sanitary Institute, Congress and Exhibition*, York, England, July 29th to August 3rd, 1912. President, Most Rev. His Grace the Lord Archbishop of York; E. White Wallis, Secretary, 90 Buckingham Palace Rd., London, England.

*The Royal Sanitary Institute, Henry Saxon Snell Prize*.—This prize, consisting of 50 guineas and the silver medal of the Royal Sanitary Institute is offered, 1912, for an essay on "Suggestions for Improvements in the Ventilating, Lighting, Heating and Water Supply Appliances for an Operating Room and Its Accessory Rooms of 400 Beds" (No Students). For conditions of the competition applications should be made to the Secretary of the Secretary of the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90 Buckingham Road, London, S. W., England.