

be of immense help in determining what children need this kind of holiday and what that. At the present time the question of country holidays and of convalescence after illness, or sanatorium treatment are in a rather unorganized condition. Multitudes of children who would benefit by country holidays do not get them, many children who need seaside convalescence or sanatorium treatment do not get it, while, at the same time, unsuitable (financially speaking) children are allowed to take advantage of charities which are needed by others less well able to pay. The conditions at present are unavoidable, but how a school clinic would simplify them and make it easier to apply the charities to the best result! Given, then, that the Care Committee is working in close touch with the clinic, it should be possible to arrange for the optimum use of the agencies at their disposal and probably for the holidaying of all those children whose condition urgently require it, and especially those threatened with tuberculosis.

Very much valuable work is done by voluntary and paid health visitors who endeavor by home visits and by plain talks to impress on the homes of poor people, the common-sense lessons of modern hygiene. The school clinic will do much to fortify and reinforce this health missionary work. For the clinic will not only act as a centre, a rallying point and a reference on all questions connected with the health of the school child, but it will train the children and the parents themselves as health missionaries on their own account. As I have before pointed out, the discussion of a practical point of hygiene, say that of open windows or of personal cleanliness, becomes not only concrete, but vital, the ailment or delicacy of a beloved child as its object lesson. The lesson (it is a way with lessons) may have to be repeated, but ultimately it will be effective. A school clinic properly conducted should spread principles of hygiene very rapidly throughout its district.

I have above endeavored to point out how the school clinic will enable all cases of ailment or defect in school children to be adequately treated. How it will link the school organization with the present school doctors and school nurses and with the special and with the general hospitals. How, again, all the activities which have to do with feeding, cloth-

ing, holidaying, may be naturally grouped and co-ordinated with the clinic's medical work. And how, further, the activity of the clinic and its co-ordinated helpers will stretch outside the school, and penetrate by means of its missionaries into the home itself, bringing the sweetness and light of hygiene to the parents of school children (particularly of the poverty group), clothed in the garb of their own thoughts and ideas, and exemplified by the occurrences of the daily lives.

Nothing here suggested is Utopian, nothing here suggested is more than the grouping together of isolated and uncoordinated practical activities. The school clinic, by medically studying the child provides the natural centre and rallying point for all these activities. All these agencies which are now working in a scattered and inco-ordinated way for the helping of school children, will be centralized by the clinic, organized, and made a hundred per cent. more effective than they can now be. And we may hope for great and almost unrealizable changes when the school clinic pours out health and help and kindness in every congested and poor district, for then the growth of child life, which now sinks down into the abyss, will spring up and grow healthily with the light and air of good human existence.

If you are severely practical, reader, you are conjured not to read this; it will not be "practical" until to-morrow, when some of the preliminary work of clearing out the awful morass of slum child life shall have been performed. To-day it is only a dream. A dream of the time when the child at school shall grow as sweetly and as happily as a flower in a garden, when it shall stretch up its mind for knowledge as a flower for sunlight, and when all the strange and impish deformities and etiolations, medical inspectors have to catalogue are relegated to infrequent hospitals and sanatoria with but very few beds in their wards.

The School Clinic will aim to get the level of all children up to the low "average" or "normal" of the relatively healthy in present Council schools, and then we can begin our real work of devising means whereby that low, that all too low average, may be transcended, the lethargic body grow supple, nimble and good to look upon, the dulled senses quick, true and responsive and the narrow mind actively growing and