

64 1923-24

totalled 5,202. In all 333 cases were treated, and of them 277 were treated in the previous year, and 224 were new cases. In 1923-24 there were 7,663 attendances, and 433 cases, of which 123 had been treated in the previous year, and 308 were new cases. Of the 883 cases treated, 825 were males and 161 females.

Mosquito "Dodgers."

Dr. E. Angas Johnson (Medical Officer for Adelaide) outlined the work of the Metropolitan County Board, the Adelaide Local Board of Health, and the Abattoirs Board, and gave illustrations of the cardinal relationship existing, particularly between the two first-named bodies. He also spoke of the measures taken in Adelaide and the suburbs to minimize the breeding of mosquitoes, and undertook to supply the commission with a number of the "mosquito dodgers" published by the City Health Department. The witness concluded by remarking that, despite the introduction of special fish into the Torrens, the imposition of penalties on citizens for non-compliance with the board's regulations and other measures, a strong wind was likely at any time to send droves of mosquitoes to the city from the Sewage Farm or the Reedbeds.

Colonel Light Gardens.

During the morning the members of the commission visited Colonel Light Gardens.

The Commission's Itinerary.

Evidence will be taken to-day on maternity hygiene, infant welfare, child welfare, and school hygiene. The witnesses will be Drs. Helen Mayo, Ruth Gault, Marie Brown, Gertrude Halley, and F. H. Beare, and Mrs. Napier Birks. The members of the commission will leave for Perth to-morrow morning, and will return to Adelaide on May 26 and take evidence on the three succeeding days.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15-5-25

Dr. E. Angas Johnson (City Health Officer) gave evidence of the administration of the health regulations in the city, and of the co-ordination which existed between the authorities. The relations between the Municipal and Central Boards of Health, and the Metropolitan County Board were harmonious, but the different authorities were needed in order to carry out the various classes of work. The relations between general practitioners and the health authorities were also cordial. The mosquito campaign was proving effective. A mixture of castor oil and kerosene was put on standing water, and all water tanks were carefully inspected. Most houses were wire screened, and the occupants were advised to keep refuse tins covered and to have all broken bottles removed.

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MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Plea for Encouragement.

Infectious Diseases and Welfare Work.

Further evidence was given before the Federal Commission on Public Health in Adelaide on Thursday by Adelaide doctors with regard to the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, the control of infectious diseases, the encouragement of medical research, and the administration of child welfare work.

The members present were the Chairman (Sir George Syme), Drs. F. S. Hone, E. H. Todd, and Jean Craig, and the Hon. S. R. Innes-Noad, M.L.C.

Dr. F. H. Beare, physician at Mareeba Babies' Hospital, and temporary assistant physician at the Adelaide Hospital, who was for nine months in charge of the consumptive block, North terrace, gave evidence. He said that an important aspect of the prevention of pulmonary tuberculosis was the recognition of early cases. It should be impressed on the medical profession that early treatment of the disease was necessary. There had been many instances where tuberculosis had not been detected, although the patients had long been under observation. The establishment of a tuberculosis clinic at the Adelaide Hospital would be efficacious, but medical students should be trained in the means of detection of tuberculosis at an early stage, where cure was more probable. The instructions given to sufferers were not always carried out, and the witness agreed that legal provision for segregation in the event of flagrant disobedience was necessary. Regarding the Consumptive Block, Dr. Beare said that the authorities had no responsibility over the patients, who

were allowed their liberty. Most of the cases there were serious, and recovery was rare. One person had been in the hospital for 15 years. Although he had not had experience of "tuberculosis colonies," he considered that anything would be better than the conditions at present prevailing.

Infectious Diseases.

Dealing with infectious diseases, the witness said the general practitioner, strictly speaking, had nothing to do with the prevention of them under the existing conditions. The medical man could carry out much preventive treatment in the home. People would take more notice of him than of a stranger. Medical students should be educated in the methods of maintaining better health. Most of the health inspectors were not medical men, and the appointment of half-time officers had, in his opinion, been a failure. The present arrangement under the Health Act in South Australia was not satisfactory, so far as notifying infectious diseases was concerned.

Research in Gastro-Enteritis.

Dr. Beare, who has carried out extensive research in gastro-enteritis, said that his work was financed by private subscriptions. Most of it was done in laboratories at the Adelaide Hospital and the Adelaide University.

Dr. Hone—Is it a fact that the results of your research would reduce the mortality from infantile diarrhoea, and that so far nothing has followed from the public health point of view?—Yes.

Given a free hand, could you reduce the incidence of these cases in and around Adelaide.—It is a very wide field. So far as dysentery is concerned, there seems to be an association between horses and the infected child. Flies carry infection from the manure. This is, apparently, borne out by the fact that since the horse had almost vanished from New York infantile diarrhoea has practically ceased to exist there. Eventually, I suppose, that will take place in Adelaide, where, I believe, flies are diminishing.

In reply to further questions, Dr. Beare said research would be assisted by the establishment of a laboratory by the Government, with an attendant to perform routine work. It should be in a central position, and, preferably, should be associated with the University. The suggested Federal Research Council would be of value in correlating the results of individual research and in preventing duplication. The council, he thought, should be composed partly of professional men and partly of laymen. The allotting of sums—say, £100—to individual practitioners would enable them to pursue research work on their own lines, but in a direction suggested by the council. He did not think a monetary reward was called for.

"There seems to be a large amount of material for research being lost," the witness concluded. "The private practitioner usually sees disease in its early stages, and could do much good if he were enabled to spend his spare time in research. Last year there was an outbreak of catarrhal jaundice in the metropolitan area. It was never worked out how it arose. As it was not an infectious disease, the Health Department could do nothing, but a doctor could probably have tracked it down. The practitioner does not want assistance, but encouragement."

The Mother and the Infant.

Dr. Helen Mary Mayo (chief medical officer at Mareeba Hospital, honorary medical officer at Children's Hospital, and clinical vaccinator at the Adelaide Hospital) read a comprehensive statement regarding pre-natal and post-natal work in South Australia. There were too many untrained nurses, she said, and better training in obstetrics and midwifery was necessary. More mothers' welfare centres, subsidized by the Government, attended by medical men, and equipped with "a certain degree of niceness," were needed. The best cared-for children in the community, she considered, were the State children between the ages of two and six years.

Dr. Marie Brown (acting medical officer of the Adelaide School for Mothers' Institute and medical officer for the State Children's Department) spoke of the lack of facilities for the treatment of women before and after confinement. Midwife-homes were usually not good. Many of the patients did not get enough to eat. Some of the rescue homes were being run as laundries, and the patients were often underfed and overworked. A large percentage of babies from such homes were light. The public should be better educated in the facts of child birth, and there should be post-graduate courses for doctors.

Child Welfare.

Dr. E. Ruth Gault said she had just returned from abroad, where she had made a special study of child welfare. She thought that the infant welfare work in South Australia was comparatively good, but should be enlarged to deal with children between the ages of two and five years. An "after-care department" should be provided for the supervision of children after they left the hospital.

Mrs. Napier Birks (President of the School for Mothers Institute and Public Health Centre) said the institute was primarily concerned, not with sick babies, but with keeping healthy babies healthy. She considered every district nurse should have at least a month's training in the school, especially in the treatment of infants' foods. All maternity nurses should hold certificates. Difficulty was encountered at the centre in dealing with children between the ages of two and six years.

She thought it would be beneficial if the baby health centres, kindergartens, creches, and so on, were housed together, so that the young children could be under medical supervision. If there were regular subsidies from the Government baby health centres could be started. Irregularity of income was the chief obstacle

to the spread of the work. The witness described the scheme adopted for the welfare of the employees of Charles Birks and Co., Limited. The main principle of the scheme was to keep the men and women in good health. She believed that, as a result, sick leave among the employees had decreased by about two-thirds.

School Health.

Dr. I. Gertrude M. Halley (Chief Medical Inspector of the Education Department) spoke of the beneficial results that had accrued from the freer use of milk in the schools. It had been found that children who were regularly given milk put on weight, and became brighter and more active. There was excellent co-operation between parents and the department officers, although that was not always the case with regard to private practitioners. Parents needed some education respecting the care of the children's teeth. Folk dances and games had replaced the former organized drill in the schools, and already an improvement in the carriage of the girls had been noticed. It would be possible to conduct medical examinations of children below "school age" by the school officers in addition to the customary examination of students.

The committee will leave for Perth to-morrow, and after having taken evidence there will proceed to Perth.

REGISTER. 15-5-25.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The second chamber music recital by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet will be given next Monday evening. The programme, though comparatively brief, will be of exceptional interest, including a Haydn quartet, and the magnificent quartet in F minor of Brahms, with Mr. William Silver at the piano. Miss Hilda Gull will also sing a bracket of Brahms's songs. It is intended to alter the seating arrangements of the Elder Hall for this concert, in order to secure a better acoustical effect. The performers will occupy a raised platform in the centre of the floor. To make this experiment possible the director asks season ticket holders to forego their usual seats. No chairs will be numbered, but ample provision will be made in reserved blocks both for season ticket holders and for those who purchase single tickets, which are now obtainable at S. Marshall & Son's, Gawley place.

ADVERTISER. 15-5-25.

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATION BOARD.

The Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, Queensland, and Western Australia, and the State Conservatorium of New South Wales.

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May, 1925.
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(The name of the School or Teacher precedes that of the candidate, and is in larger type.)

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BERNALDO—Piano, Billingier, N. B.; Colwell, M. V.; Martin, E. M. MISS E. CONROY—Piano, Alford, A. M. MISS S. K. COOMBE—Piano, Hocking, T. E. MRS. F. E. DICKSON—Piano, Hopgood, L. K.; Jackson, C. L. MISS W. HARRIS—Piano, Steele, L. R. MISS B. HARVEY—Piano, Moore, M. V. MISS E. L. JOHNS—Piano, Bennett, M. M.; Cadriano, W. K.; Newbery, A. B.; Setterfield, C. K. Mr. G. LAWSON—Violin, Atkins, K. J.; Pollington, R. A.; Sexton, A. L. MISS A. M. MACDONALD—Piano, Grimmatt, K. L.; Middleton, G. MISS K. O'GRADY—Piano, Rowland, M.

GRADE VII.
CREDIT.—DOMINICAN CONVENT, FRANKLIN-STREET—Piano, Anderson, J. Miss C. McGrath—Piano, Hancock, E. M. PASS.—MISS I. J. RAYMOND—Piano, Atchison, E. N. MISS SEROD—Violin, Glynn, M. MISS E. M. TUCKWELL—Piano, Davey, T. M.; Hall, M. G.

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