

the disappearance of visible discharge is not definite evidence of the absence of infectivity."

"Circulars explaining the uses of the various forms, etc., and calling attention to the provisions made by the Department of Public Health for the carrying out of laboratory aids to diagnosis, are also sent to medical practitioners. A second circular is addressed to every chemist (i.e., pharmacist) enclosing a copy of the Act, and explaining the provisions contained therein in regard to the position of unqualified persons treating these diseases. The pharmacist is appealed to to assist the Department in carrying out the provisions of the Act faithfully."

INSANITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(Extract). "Heredity was noted as a predisposing cause of insanity in 47 patients admitted during the year, senility in 28 patients, and venereal disease in 18 cases. Alcohol was regarded as the exciting cause in 70 cases, epilepsy in 10 cases, and puerperal factors in 8 cases."

PERTINENT QUESTION.

A young man in a neighbouring county seat was fined for intoxication, and the fine was remitted on condition that he stay sober until July 4. Is it fair to a man who has acquired the drink appetite to put saloons in his way and then demand that he stay sober? Every time he sees a saloon or smells the odor that comes from one he has an uncontrollable desire to go in and fill up. Is it fair to set traps to create the desire, inflame it to the point of desperation, and when he falls, to punish him for it? Is it not true that if you vote for saloons you are to blame for the shame and misery they unload on the community?—Uhrichsville Chronicle.

Norway, in many things the land of pioneers, has quite recently appointed its first woman member of a Board of Guardians, and the woman who has been admitted to this post of chief is Miss Ragna Bugge, and her district will include 760 persons in receipt of relief.

KARITANI BABIES' HOSPITAL.

Statesmen cry out against a declining birth rate. Women exclaim against the increasing and preventable infant death rate. They ask for more babies, we demand greater care for the babies born. They want an increased birth rate, mothers a decreasing death rate.

New Zealand occupies the proud position of having the smallest infant death rate in the world. Dr Truby King is to be thanked largely for this. At the head of one of our large mental hospitals he saw the connection between malnutrition in infancy and brain failure in later life. Through his endeavours, and under his direction, Karitani Home was founded. It saves the lives not only of hundreds of babies who are nursed there, but of many more through the agency of the nurses it trains and sends forth, and by means of the mothers whom it instructs in the care of their babies.

The Karitani Home is beautifully situated upon the slope of a hill. It has a magnificent view away over our southern ocean, and is near enough to be swept by the life-giving sea breezes. It is a palace of comfort for its wee inmates, though of luxury there is no trace. Simplicity is the keynote everywhere, nothing that an intelligent mother of very moderate means could not provide for her own baby once she has been taught what to do. Fresh air in abundance, scrupulous cleanliness, light, warm clothing, and intelligent care are given to every baby. The Karitani babies live indeed the simple life and flourish on it. The Matron, bright and cheerful, an enthusiast in her work, loves her babies, and they greet her with smiles and coos as she moves amongst them.

The nursery contains two baths, set like a sink, here babies are washed, without mothers having to stoop over them, and are lifted on to a flannel-covered board to be dried. Each baby has its own basket, containing its toilet requisites, and towel. Upon the floor of the nursery a rug is thrown, and round it a close boarded fence about a foot high, and there the baby is left to kick, free from draughts, for twenty minutes.

Their little beds are most comfortable. First, a blanket is thrown over the cradle, the upper mattress and little pillow are of chaff. Upon the mattress a blanket, then mackintosh and sheet. The baby is placed on the

sheet, another sheet over it, and the blanket drawn up over it and pinned with a safety pin to the bottom blanket. Every mattress has a hot water bottle beneath it, and the little hands have mittens over them. They sleep with open windows and no fires, so must be kept warm. A baby boy of ten months slept on the verandah all night, even when it snowed, and woke up rosy and warm in the morning. Ignorant folk exclaim that it will kill an infant to sleep out like this, but Matron knows that fresh air never harms her babies if they are kept warm and out of draughts. The clothing is loose, warm and comfortable. Karitani babies have no tight bands and rollers. All garments are made magyar style. No woollen is worn next its delicate skin, but a shirt of light open-woven cotton cloth, and over this the woollen singlet for warmth. Any lady can get a pattern of a babies' rational wardrobe by sending to the Matron, Karitani Home, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin. Paper patterns of the garments are supplied at the modest cost of 1s., plus postage. But the most wonderful of all is the kitchen and dairy. Here is made the humanised milk. Karitani encourages all mothers to breast-feed their babies, but when this is impossible the humanised milk is used. The bottles are boiled in a large boiler, and then baked in the oven to become thoroughly sterilised. Each baby has several bottles, as they are only used once, and then cleansed again. The teats are carefully washed with salt in hot and cold water, and each baby's kept in its own little cup, bearing a ticket with baby's name on it.

The babies are scientifically fed. Every week the food values given are worked out, and next week's supply arranged. All food left over is kept and measured, and so much less given next time.

Altogether to the baby-lover, Karitani is a fascinating place. Puny babies perishing from malnutrition are taken in and in a short time become models of healthy, happy babyhood. Mothers are kept there, and shown how to treat baby in their own home, and Plunket nurses are trained there. These go all over the Dominion, and give advice and instruction to mothers on the care of babies. And so our babies here grow up into healthy children, and the death rate among them is the lowest in the world.