

Suggested, That local authorities be circularized on this subject; that regulations be drawn up prohibiting spitting, and pointing out the dangers of the practice; and that placards ready for placing in public places be sent to the local authorities.

Dr. Hardwick-Smith considered that railway-carriages, &c., should be much more rigorously cleaned and better ventilated.

It was resolved that the attention of the Railway Department be drawn to the insanitary condition of the carriages, owing to their lack of ventilation and cleanliness.

Dr. Hardwick-Smith raised the question as to whether placards relating to infectious disease should be placed in public conveniences. Decided that this would be discussed under "Education."

Dr. Lyth inquired as to the responsibilities of hotelkeeping in regard to cleansing public rooms, bedrooms, &c. The Chairman thought something might be done in this direction under the Licensing Act.

Resolved, That it be a recommendation to the Licensing Committee that periodical cleansing of hotels be carried out.

It was stated that boardinghouses were worse offenders in this respect.

Moved and carried, That the Public Health Act be amended to provide for the inspection of boardinghouses and their being subject to the same conditions now obtaining with regard to hotels under the Licensing Act as regards sanitation.

*(e.) Town-planning; and (f) Condemnation of Insanitary Areas.*

The Chairman stated that the Department had done a good deal in this direction; a great number of houses had been condemned, and by-laws adopted by local authorities had all been in the direction of enlarging the areas of house-sites. The Town-planning Bill had not been passed, but the country was very well alive to the necessity for such an Act, and it would be quite competent for the Conference to make a recommendation in this direction.

Dr. Finch expressed the opinion that the size of sites for houses should certainly be defined by Act of Parliament and not by by-law.

Dr. Finch moved, That a resolution be passed to the effect that this Conference recognizes the urgent necessity for a Town-planning Bill, and hopes that such an Act will be passed next session. Seconded and carried.

Dr. Champdaloup drew attention to the difficulty under the present reading of the Act in getting Magistrates to condemn buildings.

Proposed by Dr. Champdaloup and seconded by Dr. Lyth, That the Public Health Act be amended to provide better facilities regarding the removal or improvement of insanitary buildings. Carried.

The Chairman was of opinion that it would be as well to set up a sub-committee to discuss the agenda paper, and that an Educational Sub-committee should also be set up.

Agreed, That Drs. Blackmore, Lyth, Champdaloup, and Lewis be members of the Educational Sub-committee; Drs. Hardwick-Smith, Finch, Frengley, Mr. Reakes, and the mover be on the Committee to consider the agenda paper: the committees to report to the Conference the following morning.

Agreed to deal with item No. 6 the following morning, in order to have the advantage of Mr. Reakes's attendance.

Adjourned until 3 p.m.

The Conference reassembled at 3 p.m.

The Chairman informed the Conference that, including one at Nelson, there were five sanatoria in the Dominion. Auckland had just decided to erect a sanatorium of fifty beds, and when that was done accommodation would be available for 350 patients, including those in advanced stages of the disease—or, roughly, one bed for every 3,500 of the population. This number included the annexes attached to our hospitals. He would ask the Conference to state whether it considered this a sufficiency of beds. He believed he was perfectly right in saying that no country had, proportionately, as many beds for the special treatment of consumption as New Zealand.

Dr. Lewis thought it would be something to aim at to accommodate all the advanced cases in institutions. The Chairman stated that if advanced and all kinds of cases were provided for a thousand beds could be filled, but was it right at this juncture to ask the Government to grant the amount that would be involved?

Dr. Blackmore moved, That in the opinion of this Conference hospital accommodation for consumptives, either by means of special sanatoria, wards for advanced cases, or annexes attached to our hospitals, be increased to 700 beds. Seconded by Dr. Lyth. Carried.

With regard to the proportion of beds to be reserved for advanced cases, the Chairman said that the vital question was as to where these institutions should be erected—should they be separate institutions, or should they be erected in connection with our general hospitals or our sanatoria? Personally, from an administrative as well as an economic point of view, he did not think it would be justifiable to ask Hospital Boards to erect separate institutions and therefore provide separate staffs. He did not think sentiment could be ignored altogether in the matter, but nevertheless he believed that arrangements could be made whereby patients could be saved distress occasioned by seeing others in the later stages of the disease. Personally, he had to consider the purse-strings of the Dominion, and he would ask the Conference to consider the matter from that point of view also.

Dr. Lyth considered that if accommodation for advanced cases could be effectually provided in connection with hospitals in the city it would be more satisfactory, as patients would be more likely to seek treatment there than if they had to go a long distance for it.