

old conventions as such, with no thought of their origin and value to the community, or their adaptation and moulding to necessary changes. It is such straining for expression in the midst of revolt which gives us the cubist and the futurist essaying to replace the masterpieces of art; which impels the son of the composer of the "Blue Danube" to startle our sense of harmony with "Don Quixote"; which accounts for innocent young women joining recklessly in dances the meaning and source of which could hardly be referred to in a smoking-room; which draws inspiration for its literary romances from a pathological text-book. The craving for newness at any cost has had its cycles, and is recorded thus by one whose insight into human nature remains unequalled:—

Where doth the world thrust forth a vanity
(So be it new, there's no respect how vile)
That is not quickly buzzed into his ears?
Then all too late comes counsel to be heard,
Where will doth mutiny with wit's regard—
Direct not him whose way himself will choose.

But we are not dealing with circumstances under which this advice was given. Much may be done in the political sphere, but that is beyond my brief. There are, however, social questions on which there cannot be political differences, in which there is an obligation on those in and having the power to direct in the way of physical, mental, and moral safety. The rejections from the Expeditionary Force, coupled with the reports on the indifferent physical condition of numbers of school-children, indicate as clearly as anything can that the underlying cause of most of the unfitness to stand hardships exists before school age. If the natural and proper needs of life are supplied before and after birth, the average infant, child, and adult will be so much the better able to resist the effect of predisposing and the attack of the direct causes of disease, whether physical or mental or moral, and the proportion of the robust will rise to demonstrate that people are not abusing the advantages of this highly favoured country. I am glad that the Government contemplates taking up systematically this question of social service, and, feeling strongly as I do that not alone the physical but the future mental and moral health of the community is largely dependent on the care of the young organism, it is fortunate we are in a position to get the benefit of the experience of Dr. Truby King, who has a world-wide reputation in this branch of medical science. Our relatively small population can be instructed in domestic science, using the term in its widest application, with a completeness impossible in larger communities. Further, with the knowledge that undue excitation of the infant is harmful, it will also be realized that some decided check should be placed on the precocious excitement of older children—on the vivid presentation of vice and the glamour of lawlessness, in spite of the ultimate triumph of virtue, depicted in the class of moving picture which by its supply has created its own demand, and is ethically destructive. I thanked you, sir, privately, and I do so now publicly, for having taken up this matter.

The therapeutic value of the farms, even if we had to work them at a loss, makes them a necessity, but year by year the farming operations, including kitchen-gardening and fruit-growing, have been so successful that their primary object tends to be overlooked—that of diffusing a sentiment of privacy and freedom while providing normal healthy occupation in the open air.

The expenditure for the year on all the farms amounted to £24,171, and the receipts £36,878, leaving a profit of £12,707. The following is a statement of the receipts:—

Mental Hospital.				Produce sold.			Value of Produce consumed.			Total.		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	..	..	..	1,314	14	2	3,185	7	7	4,500	1	9
Christchurch	..	..	..	4,653	19	4	4,880	15	1	9,534	14	5
Seacliff	..	..	..	3,756	13	4	6,203	18	1	9,960	11	5
Hokitika	..	..	..	..	..	..	720	12	1	720	12	1
Nelson	..	..	..	368	2	5	1,609	7	11	1,977	10	4
Porirua	..	..	..	2,379	10	10	3,416	2	1	5,795	12	11
Tokanui	..	..	..	1,811	12	3	2,577	15	7	4,389	7	10
Totals	..	..	..	11,281	12	4	22,993	18	5	36,878	10	9

In Table XX1 the bulk of the farm expenditure is divided among "salaries," "farm," and "miscellaneous," while the receipts of produce sold for cash account for £3 3s. 1d. of "receipts of all kinds"; but the value of produce of our own growing consumed, approximately £5 per head, is not shown in Table XX1, and in assessing full actual value of food consumed this sum should be added to the item of "provisions."

There are also some minor sources contributing to the credits; but the chief receipts are collected for the maintenance of patients. These have been highly satisfactory. The total amount was £69,432 12s. 10d., averaging per head £15 5s. 8d., an increase of £3 11s. 3½d. over the previous year. The collection of maintenance was reorganized in 1910, removed to the Head Office, and placed under Mr. Wells as Receiver. The first year showed an improvement, and then only amounted to £7 7s. 7½d. per head. The total cost of collection is about 1·4 per cent.

The improved credits, placed against the necessarily increased expenditure in spite of careful buying, have kept the cost per patient within reasonable limits. Thus, for the year ended the 31st December, 1919, the gross cost per head of £63 2s. 9½d. (no allowance made for interest on buildings, &c., by way of rent) was reduced to £42 8s. 5d., an increase of only £2 9s. 11½d. over the previous year.

The total expenditure for the year ending 31st December, as shown in Table XX, was, in round figures, £286,847; the credits amounted to £94,130, leaving a net expenditure of £192,717. The synchronous rise of credits with expenditure is being maintained. At the balance at the end of the financial year the corresponding figures were £303,765, £112,951, and £190,804, the item of receipts for maintenance having risen to £86,887.