

retro-bulbar neuritis directly due to a nasal sinus infection; the manner in which the conducting power of the optic nerve was inhibited, whether by toxins or otherwise, is not clear.

I acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Cridland for his permission to publish this case.

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## ANNOTATION

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### The Social Work of a large Hospital

There is a side of the work of a large hospital of which the surgeon sees little and the student practically nothing. It plays, nevertheless, a most important part in the successful treatment of many of their patients. The Lady Almoner, Miss. M. W. Edminson, has just issued a report on the work of the Samaritan Fund of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. In this report a new departure is made to enable the reader to visualise by the aid of diagrams the nature of the disease, the assistance found necessary, and the institutions available for such assistance. As is to be expected in an ophthalmic hospital the most frequent recommendations are made to the M.A.B. Schools at White Oak, Swanley. Some of the facts relating to the group of children sent to Swanley have been collected and classified in the report for the years 1924 and 1925, when 50 children between the ages of 2 and 15 were transferred there.

“These children were suffering from phlyctenular ophthalmia, keratitis, blepharitis, interstitial keratitis (two cases) and trachoma (one case). The purpose of the investigation was to discover not only how many were, on their return, reported by the surgeon as free from all signs of active disease, but also how many had remained without relapse for at least a period of twelve months. The Hospital notes could not be taken as final evidence in concluding whether a relapse had occurred because it was possible that the ophthalmia had recurred without the child being brought again to Moorfields, or that the parent had taken him elsewhere for treatment. Each patient was therefore visited at home and the parents' co-operation was enlisted in discovering what had happened. The children, before being sent to Swanley, had suffered from eye disease for prolonged periods, only twelve out of the total having been affected for a period less than six months, and some had been attending as out-patients for several years. The average stay at White Oak was seven months.” The final result was that 78 per cent. were sent home, not only cured but with their general health sufficiently established to preclude the chance of relapse. Such a result, only one of the many activities of this work, speaks for itself. The success of this work affords ample evidence of the advisability of providing even greater facilities for the treatment of this class of case.