

SCIENCE AND THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The B.M.A. report on rheumatic heart disease in children, published on July 3rd, 1926, is already bearing very practical fruit. Prior to the report the Manchester Board of Guardians had formulated a scheme of treatment of rheumatic carditis for the children under their care. These were admitted first to Booth Hall Infirmary for diagnosis and treatment until such time as they were able to have occasional exercise. They were then transferred to a private venture home for further treatment and regulated exercise, returning to Booth Hall if they relapsed and going home when sufficiently improved. On the publication of the report, the Guardians improved this scheme by providing "carditis" beds at their Children's Convalescent Home at Northenden, just outside Manchester. The complete scheme now consists of initial treatment at Booth Hall Infirmary until they are having one hour's exercise daily. They are then transferred to the "carditis" beds for regulated exercises until they can be transferred to the "convalescent" beds at the same institution. After a period of being up all day attending school to prove that the improvement is not evanescent, they are transferred home, but the Invalid Children's Aid Association will be asked for a monthly report. If relapse takes place during any of these stages, the child returns to Booth Hall and the procedure commences again. Authority has also been obtained for the services of a visiting cardiologist. This scheme therefore appears to provide Manchester children with everything that can be desired in the form of treatment and supervision when suffering from carditis.

The Metropolitan Asylums' Board are also moving in the matter very definitely, arrangements being made for the provision of 350 beds for cardiac cases at the Children's Hospital, Carshalton.

It is very gratifying to find that the action of the British Medical Association has so strengthened the hands of Medical Superintendents as to enable them to approach their Committees with a scheme which cannot be treated by a Committee, which must of necessity consider economy, as being merely a fad, even if a very laudable fad, of a public official. Probably other public bodies have already schemes under consideration.