

VI.—GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF A SHORE ESTABLISHMENT FOR BOYS.

113. In providing Training Establishments on shore for Boys in future, the importance of taking full advantage of the experience gained at Shotley has impressed itself on the Committee. In this connection we have carefully examined the Report of the Conference on Tuberculosis in the Navy (20th November, 1911), and the reports of Professor Simpson on the outbreak of plague and diphtheria at Shotley (1911). We have also had in mind the views of recognised authorities on the subject of hygiene and school sanitation. The opinions of some of these authorities are given in Appendix No. 7. The sketches prepared by the Director of Works in connection with the various sites proposed are not necessarily intended as a final pronouncement on matters of detail connected with hygiene or detailed accommodation, and are subject to review in detail at a later stage.

114. The attainment of the best conditions of hygiene in a large Establishment providing for 1,600 Boys besides Staff would necessarily involve heavy expenditure. The general conditions in a Training Establishment differ materially from those in a School. The Boys are older and are retained for a much shorter period, whilst the numbers under training fluctuate considerably. In normal circumstances the full complement would only be reached immediately before the discharge of the periodical drafts for sea-training.

115. Experts on hygiene postulate that in dormitories accommodating the young a superficial area of 72 square feet should be allowed for each person, admitting of the net breathing space available being 800 cubic feet, and a space between beds of 3 feet. At Shotley the dormitories allow 600 cubic feet per Boy. The decision on this question is largely a matter for experts, but in view of the opinions already expressed in regard to the accommodation at Shotley, we recommend that the most careful consideration should be given to the subject, with due regard to economy, in connection with the erection of new Barracks for Boys.

116. The question of providing ample accommodation for class/rooms and recreation rooms and sufficient covered spaces for drill, exercises and instruction outdoors has already been referred to in paragraph 60. As regards accommodation for Boys during spare hours, especially in bad weather, it cannot be expected that so called "day dormitories" should compete successfully in attractiveness with such places as the Gymnasium or School house which at Shotley are provided with the means for entertaining the Boys. Moreover, such "day dormitories" are liable, in periods of pressure, to become absorbed into the sleeping accommodation. The

School-rooms in any new Establishment should, if practicable, be reserved exclusively for instructional purposes, and suitable recreation rooms should be provided independently of the School-house. The provision of a larger gymnasium than that at Shotley would go some way towards meeting the requirements, and in the preliminary schemes of new Establishments submitted in this Report, it is contemplated that the gymnasium should be some 200 feet long by 80 feet wide, the building at Shotley being 160 feet by 60 feet. It should be recognised that covered ways do not afford suitable accommodation for boys in inclement weather. /ca/

117. We recommend that the bungalow type of buildings adopted at Shotley should not be reproduced in any Establishment built in future, but that two-storey blocks should be provided. It is understood that this arrangement will not necessarily add to the expense of construction. In order that supervision may be facilitated, either a verandah on a level with the floor of each upper dormitory or a separate outside staircase to each block should be provided. This suggestion has been allowed for in the various preliminary sketches prepared by the Director of Works. Attention has also been given in these schemes to the floors, which it is suggested should be of patent jointless wood compositions, similar to those recently provided at Shotley.

118. It is considered that fresh water should, if practicable, be supplied for the swimming bath, which should be provided with a spitting trough. It is advisable that the ordinary baths in the bath-house should be replaced by "shower" baths.

119. It would be an advantage to heat all buildings by means of steam-pipes instead of by fires, the latter being considered to be largely responsible for the prevalence of chilblains during the winter months.

120. The Dining Hall might be fitted with appliances for treating all gear and utensils with boiling water after meals. It would also be a convenience for the Galley to adjoin the Dining Hall.

121. Modern hygienic fittings should be used for water taps which supply drinking water for the boys in order to provide some protection against contagion.

122. It has been suggested that baths should be provided in connection with the disinfectors required in order that the station may be self-contained.

123. The problem of the disposal of refuse and the location of the contributory ash-bins requires consideration. The system at Shotley of collecting refuse in open brick pits whence the refuse is carted away is not altogether satisfactory. The best method of disposing of refuse is to employ a Destructor or Incinerator. /considered

124. It is worthy of consideration whether, in any new Establishment, space could be set apart in order that suspicious cases and new entries might be subjected to a reasonable period of quarantine. Such an arrangement could be effected by setting apart for use by day and night one or more self-contained dormitories in which beds of a special pattern could be fitted which could be turned up against the walls during the day, leaving ample room for tables, &c. This arrangement would necessarily interfere with the routine of instruction, except in the case of new entries, but it is considered practicable to make special provision for dealing with this difficulty. At present it is almost impossible to overcome the difficulty of quarantine without disorganising the ordinary routine of instruction.

125. Consideration might also be given to the desirability of equipping a Laundry in which the Boys could be taught to wash their own clothes as they are required to do afloat, instead of depending entirely on a Steam Laundry.

126. Provision should be made for the efficient natural lighting of Class rooms, some of the Class rooms at Shotley (Class rooms 1, 4, 5, and 6) being below the proper standard in this respect.

127. We recognise that the adoption of any or all of the foregoing recommendations must, to a large extent, be dependent on financial considerations. In this connection we would suggest that in the event of new shore Establishments being decided upon the plans and specifications should be subjected to examination by a small Committee selected on account of their knowledge of the special requirements of the Training Service. /5