

Austria. The care of men disabled in the war is the business of the State. Unemployment insurance is likewise regulated by State law. The Municipality bears 4 per cent. of the cost, whereas 12 per cent. is provided by the State, and 84 per cent. by employers and workers. A much greater burden than this, however, is imposed upon the Municipality in consequence of the excessive unemployment of the present time.

Additional maintenance grants amounting to a maximum of 300,000 kronen (18s.) monthly are made in the case of 32,000 persons, besides which rent subsidies are granted, as well as assistance in kind.

Indoor relief embraces 11,000 persons accommodated in 12 homes. In this connection many reforms have been carried out. The privileges of a favoured class of so-called "citizens" was abolished. Mentally defective persons are separated from the healthy old people. Existence in the institutions is made much happier than it was formerly for the old people. A certain control is exercised over these institutions by welfare councils, and in the largest of all it has been possible to reduce the mortality to below the pre-war level. There are also shelters for homeless individuals or families, which give accommodation and meals for the performance of certain work.

Engaged in the welfare service are over 5,000 honorary guardians, each of which has charge of a section of its district.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In this sphere quite new institutions have been created which supplement the ordinary public health service. Mention has already been made of the medical inspection of school children. A special branch of this work is the dental treatment in the schools. The children are trained in the care of the teeth, and treatment is provided where necessary. There are five free baths for children, which were visited by 430,130 youngsters in the summer of 1924.

For combating venereal diseases, centres have been established which are accessible to persons without means, and which give advice and treatment.

A centre has also been established to deal with the drink evil, and many house visits are made, with a view to tendering useful advice. In addition, there is a municipal home for inebriates.

The fight against tuberculosis has been conducted with great efficiency, whereas no machinery of this kind existed in pre-war times. There are nine centres for dealing with this evil. In the year 1924 more than 20,000 examinations were made, and 5,000 patients were sent to institutions.

The Municipality has at present about 2,000 beds for tubercular persons, and has also secured some hundreds of beds in outside institutions. These include institutions for tubercular children, which are situated in the Alpine districts and on the shores of the Adriatic Sea.

There is an institution for dealing with cripples, with proper appliances and suitable workshops.

Special measures are taken to preserve the health of young persons and apprentices. In co-operation with the friendly societies, steps are taken to secure four weeks' annual holiday in the country for apprentices. This measure of protection also applies to children leaving school who need to recuperate before entering into industrial life.

In addition to the State institutions for the care of the sick, the Municipality has a model hospital with 1,000 beds, and is gradually taking over the Vienna children's hospitals which were formerly maintained by voluntary contributions. There is also a municipal maternity home, and two large institutions for mental and nervous diseases.

As the sisters of mercy in the municipal institutions are being gradually replaced by secular nurses, it has been decided to establish a nurses' training college, to provide a two-year course of instruction. Continuation courses of training have also been instituted for the municipal nursing and welfare staff.

Attached to the health service is a medical marriage advice bureau, in charge of a doctor, which is in great request.

Another bureau, which is very popular, gives advice as to the choice of a career.

A thorough reorganisation of the cemetery service has resulted in a considerable lowering of the burial fees.

The Municipality has also established a crematorium, in connection with which it had a severe conflict with the clerical State government, and the matter even went to the highest court of justice, but resulted in a virtual victory for cremation which had been forbidden in old Austria.

The total number of patients housed in municipal institutions on the 1st November, 1924, was 20,604. In addition, the Municipality gave assistance to 45,089 persons. The total expenditure for welfare work during 1925 is estimated at 437.9 milliards kronen (£1,313,700), which is about one-half more than in the pre-war period.

EDUCATION.

As was to be expected, the Socialist majority paid special attention to education. The decrease in the number of scholars,