OXFORDSHIRE.

TUBERCULOSIS IN OXFORDSHIRE.

AT a recent meeting of the Henley Rural Council the following letter was read from Dr. Osler on the subject of consumption:

Oxfordshire County Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

May I ask you, on behalf of the above association, to lay this letter before your Council at its next meeting? In view of the prevalence of consumption, and the absence of any adequate means for its relief or prevention, the Radcliffe Infirmary has determined to devote certain hours of its out-patient department each week to the treatment of consumptives only coming from all parts of the district. It will mean a large increase of its work, and this association is undertaking to make good to the Radcliffe Infirmary any loss it may thereby incur. A doctor will be in charge, who will devote himself solely to this department and to preventive work in consumption, in close co-operation with the infirmary and the sanitary authorities. The Oxford City Council has granted £100 a year towards his salary. The association would ask the district councils throughout Oxfordshire to co-operate in this work by making yearly grants of perhaps £10 to £15, according to the population they represent—suggesting that councils representing over 5,000 persons should contribute £15 a year—and by this means to provide a fund of £150 a year, which will be needed to raise the doctor's salary and allowances to £250. Will your council give this matter its serious consideration? An early answer, if it be favourable, will make the immediate appointment of a doctor possible, and he can enter without delay on the special training which this work will need either at Edinburgh or in some centre where preventive work in consumption is already in full activity.

I am, yours very truly,
WM. OSLER.

With the letter was a table of the number of deaths from tuberculosis in Oxfordshire. In Henley borough there was a population of 5,984, of which there were six deaths from tuberculosis in 1909, when the deaths from all causes were 88. In the Henley rural district the population was 9,123, and the deaths from tuberculosis 14, and all other causes 126. The clerk was instructed to write and ask under what conditions would patients be admitted to the hospital if they subscribed the necessary £10 or £15?