

short time a large number of huts which the manufacturers had been making to the order of the German Central Committee, but the huts were purchased, not obtained on loan.

AN INTERESTING MEMORIAL.

Lady Reay, C.I., last week opened a new museum and laboratories at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road. These are of special interest, as they are a memorial to the late Miss Mabel Webb, M.B., who during her short but distinguished career held for two years the position of assistant pathologist to the hospital, and curator of the museum, which at that time was very inadequately housed. On Miss Webb's death a movement was inaugurated by her professional friends to raise a memorial in commemoration of her, and a considerable sum was collected, when Mrs. Webb, the mother of the late curator, came forward, and offered to defray the cost of carrying out her daughter's scheme for a museum and laboratories. To carry out this scheme an entire floor has now been added, at a cost of nearly £2,000, to the rooms originally used for these purposes. Thus the desire of this promising medical woman, apparently cut off before her work was done, is accomplished, so true is it that Providence may remove workers but carries on the work.

A COMFY CORNER.

DR. SCHOULL, of Tunis, has discovered that the beard is a "happy hunting-ground" for bacilli. The *NURSING RECORD*, however, made the same discovery long ago, and pointed out the danger of this unsterilized appendage in 1897. Dr. Schoull has proceeded on scientific lines and has inoculated guinea pigs with the "material obtained from beards and moustaches," with unpleasant results for the guinea pigs. There can be no doubt that a surgeon who shaves his beard thereby removes a means of infection to which his patients are exposed if he wears one.

WORKMENS' DWELLINGS.

THE adequate housing of the poor is one of the most important problems of the present day. On many grounds—the duty of the rich to the poor, of capitalist to labourer, as well as in the interests of public health and morality—it is essential that the working classes in this great city should be able to live in decency. It is therefore satisfactory that the London County

Council are attempting to deal with this difficult problem, and that some large blocks of workmen's dwellings, erected by the Council on an area which was formerly covered by some of the worst slums in Bethnal Green, were last Saturday opened by the Prince of Wales, who was accompanied by the Princess. The locality has obtained some notoriety as it was vividly described in "A Child of the Jago," by Mr. Arthur Morrison. The slums which covered the area have now disappeared, and the buildings erected are so arranged that the living room of every tenement gets some sunlight during the day, while in the centre of the area is a piece of ground planted with shrubs and provided with seats. The Prince of Wales in the course of a notable speech, said that he was satisfied that the public conscience was aroused with regard to the housing of the working classes and that the public would demand vigorous action in cleansing the slums which disgrace our civilization. His Royal Highness also said that he hoped, in the future, landlords in the Metropolis would get back the power over their property with which they should never have parted, and which would enable him to see the tenants on his Lambeth property as well housed as they were in Norfolk. At the present moment he was powerless, as a portion of the property is let on leases on lives, and the other part under a Special Act of Parliament which does not expire until 1909.

THE WAR BUDGET.

We are glad to see that in order to meet the liability of £60,000,000 incurred by the war, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, proposes not only to add to the income tax, but also to tax beer, spirits, tobacco, and cigars. There is also to be an additional tax on tea, and a stamp duty on all contract notes. The tax on the drink and tobacco bill will not be a popular one but it is only right that unnecessary luxuries should be taxed, instead of the necessities of life. There are those who will think that the war has its compensations if it makes strong drink, at present so terribly easily procured, a little more difficult of attainment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is to be congratulated on the adoption of this course, instead of increasing the cost of every day necessities—a special hardship to the poor, whose pockets are already affected by the increased price of coal.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)