

Annotations.

PRESENCE OF MIND.

An interesting presentation took place on Friday night at Buckingham Palace, when Mr. Walter M. Hitchcock, on behalf of the Geelong (Australia) Fire Brigade, requested the acceptance by the Hon. Charlotte Knollys of a bronze medal framed in silver. The medal bore an inscription in appreciation of her presence of mind and in thankfulness for her warning the Queen of Her Majesty's imminent peril by fire at Sandringham in December last.

It is extraordinary, considering the deep-seated and universal affection which the nation extends to Queen Alexandra, that the pluck and promptitude exhibited by her devoted attendant on the occasion of the fire at Sandringham have not received due recognition in this country, and that it has remained for one of our Colonies to take the initiative in expressions of courtesy and appreciation for the undeniable courage by which the Hon. Charlotte Knollys arrested what might have been a terrible national calamity. Perhaps it is not yet too late to take a hint from Australia.

THE PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, which has now been in existence for five years, is in urgent need of more funds. The aims of the Society are so excellent that it is to be hoped that these will be forthcoming.

A letter from Mr. C. H. Garland read at the annual meeting showed that the movement was making excellent progress. It had been represented to the Postmaster-General that the annual number of persons suffering from tuberculosis among the employees of the Post Office was slightly over 6 per 1,000; therefore, two beds in a sanatorium would supply the needs of 1,000 members of the staff. A bed could be provided for about £1 a week, and the necessary funds for maintenance could be provided by a subscription equal to a halfpenny per week from each employee. This would produce £106 per annum for each 1000 subscribers, and could be used for endowing beds in a sanatorium directed by the National Committee. Lord Stanley was asked to allow the machinery of the Department to be used in obtaining subscribers, and gave his consent. Mr. Garland estimated that at the least 50,000 subscribers would be obtained, which would realise sufficient funds for the endowment of about 100 beds.

The report of the year's work given by the Earl of Derby from the chair showed that efforts had been made to further the voluntary notification of phthisis. Compulsory notification could not be adopted without some risk of hardship, but the practice was extending. In New York it had been in vogue for some time, and had been attended with excellent results.

In workhouses and asylums it was obvious that without some means of isolation the danger of the incidence of the disease among the inmates was very great. Some boards of guardians had taken steps to deal not only with isolation but with treatment, with excellent results. The Local Government Board was in sympathy with the movement, and it was to be hoped that the Commissioners in Lunacy would take steps to carry out the suggestions of the Committee of the Medico-Psychological Association with regard to consumption in the asylums for the insane. The need of the provision of sanatoria for the poor still remained urgent. It was hoped that the Local Government Board might utilise the 1,850 beds at Gore Farm Hospital, now unoccupied, for the more advanced cases of consumption, which in the crowded homes of the poorer classes were the most important cause of the spread of infection. Homes of rest for dying and hopeless cases were also needed.

Sir William Church deprecated the unreasonable dread some people had of the infectiousness of the tubercle bacillus. It existed especially among the more educated class, and people who read sensational news in the press. They thought all they had to do was to put themselves at a distance from the bacillus, and they neglected the hygienic measures which produced a condition of resistance to its attacks. He also advocated the erection of inexpensive sanatoria rather than the expenditure of large sums on bricks and mortar. He thought that the National Association might with advantage be invited to act as an advisory body to county councils, boards of guardians, and other public bodies contemplating the provision of sanatoria.

We regret that Mr. Malcolm Morris should have to report that without more money the good work of the Association would have to come to an end. He had sent out 5,000 circulars, and the response so far had been subscriptions amounting to £100.

The work of the Society is as necessary as ever, and it is to be hoped that this will not be terminated for lack of financial support.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)