

forward specimens of their distinctive badges to the President of the Royal South Hants Nurses' League, Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, England. It takes nearly three months to get an answer from some of our colonies.

### The National League for Physical Education.

Carlton House Terrace is an ideal place for an At Home, and on Thursday, the 19th, when Sir Weetman and Lady Pearson received the members of the National League for Physical Education, their beautiful house was thrown open, and the terrace facing St. James' Park, was charmingly arranged for tea, and later for the exhibition of a display of physical culture by pupils of the Battersea Polytechnic. The very large number of guests who responded to Lady Pearson's invitation proved how deep an interest is felt in this question of national health and education.

#### THE BREED OF THE RACE.

The Lord Chief Justice presided, and the Bishop of Ripon and Mr. Augustine Birrell spoke eloquently for our children in their desire to secure the "breed" of the race. Food, environment, and education are all factors in building up a healthy race, and the League exists in order to draw every agency together likely to contribute to the health of the people, and so get one united movement by which public opinion on the subject may be aroused.

#### MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Mr. Augustine Birrell said that under our compulsory education system we compelled children to herd together in great schools and submitted them to a somewhat severe mental strain, and therefore he thought it was only human to do what they now intended to do—that was to secure as far as possible, without interference with parental control, that all school children should be subjected to medical inspection. In every school there would be preserved a health register of the result of that inspection. That would be of great value from the scientific point of view, and it would give information which would show how one generation stood with another, and would spur us to activity and prevent us also from becoming pessimistic or gloomy as to the alleged decadence of the race.

#### A BUTCHERY OF BRAINS.

A number of children were now sent to school who really were not able, owing to their mental plight, to be subjected to the necessarily rough-and-ready treatment of public elementary

schools. We lived in strained and nervous times, and there were born into the world a great number of children who, although in one sense quite healthy, were, owing to the state of their nerves, totally unfitted to go through the ordinary curriculum. To submit such children to that curriculum was not only cruelty to the child but a butchery of their brains, which must lead to the most lamentable results. What was wanted was to keep those children away from school, give them good diet, good air, and some time to think, but not subject their tender frames and puzzled intellects to competition with normal creatures. The medical eye was trained to discern the symptoms of this arrested or backward development, and the inspection which it was hoped to secure for every child on entering its school life would be of immense assistance to the child and to the parents in giving them hints and suggestions as to its proper treatment. Everyone was alive now to the important part which play occupied in education. That athleticism in certain ranks of society had occupied a greater place than it deserved was no reason why the children of the poor should be deprived of the birthright of every child, the faculty of play. They all desired that children should receive the best possible education in the way of play, but behind all there was the grim figure of the overburdened ratepayer. The love of education in this country was not very deeply rooted, and, though he hoped that the love of the health and breed of the people was more deeply rooted still, it would not do to press these things too far until they had a really educated and lively public sense behind them. They must not expect to go too far ahead of public opinion or the public purse.

The chief work of the League for some time to come will be to educate public opinion, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Lady Pearson for the welcome and courteous hospitality she had extended to so many guests, thus enabling them to realise the good work the League is doing.

### Report on Children's Courts.

It will be of advantage to all who are interested in juvenile courts and probation work to learn that the American Congress has recently authorised the printing of a new edition of the report on "Children's Courts in the United States." This report was prepared and edited by Mr. S. J. Barrows for the International Prison Commission and has been distributed widely in the United States and abroad,

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