

Study the tables given in this article of the family history of mentally deficient persons. Thus the history of a mentally defective woman, a drunkard, and a prostitute, is as follows:—The father of her eldest child was a burglar, the child, a daughter, mentally defective, has been four times in the workhouse, twice in lock hospitals, and also in four charitable homes; she is now maintained by the Guardians at a training school for the mentally defective. The father of the second child was deaf, mentally defective, and very violent, and died in the workhouse. The child, a daughter, almost an imbecile, has been committed under the Industrial Schools Act.

Again, the Commissioners were informed that in one workhouse sixteen mentally defective women had produced 116 illegitimate children. How many mentally defectives will they in their turn produce, and what nation can stand either the resulting physical deterioration or the expense of maintaining a constantly increasing number of degenerates in workhouses, prisons, and asylums?

The remedy proposed is to restrict the production of degenerates by the continuous control of the mentally defective. Mrs. Pinsent concludes a most able and interesting article by saying that "the passing of the suggested Act for the Care and Control of the Mentally Defective would at once reduce drunkenness, crime, prostitution, illegitimate births, and disease, and it would be the first preventive step in dealing with a great evil which threatens us with a steady deterioration of national efficiency, both mental and moral." M. B.

The Matrons' Council.

Arrangements have now been made for the visit of the Matrons' Council to Birmingham on Saturday, July 16th. The members will have the advantage of travelling by a non-stop excursion train, which leaves Euston Station at 11.45 a.m., and returns from Birmingham (New Street), at 7.35 p.m., the return third class ticket to cost 5s. As the time of arrival in Birmingham will be 2.15, and the Business Meeting will be held at the General Hospital at 3 p.m., it will be wise to take a picnic luncheon on the train. Mrs. Walter Spencer, 2, Portland Place, London, W., who is making arrangements, will be pleased to hear as soon as possible from members and friends who intend to go to Birmingham, and will secure tickets and seats for those who notify her that they wish this done.

Miss Musson, with her usual kindness, is preparing to give the Council a hearty welcome.

The Nursing School of the Assistance Publique.

VISIT OF THE QUEEN OF BULGARIA.

The School of Nursing of the Assistance Publique, at the Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, recently had the honour of a visit from H.M. the Queen of Bulgaria.

Her Majesty, who was accompanied by Madame Fallières, admired the order and the refinement of the arrangements throughout the building. She insisted upon seeing everything, and inspected the dining-room, the kitchen, and the laboratory, where she questioned several pupils. She took great interest in the massage department, where Miss G. Procopé, the Professor, explained the cases under treatment, and the Queen had a kind word for each sick person.

After seeing the bathroom, she inspected the schoolroom, the cupboards, and the surgical instruments; and, in the library, the dolls in the uniforms of Sister, nurse, and pupil, which obtained an award at the Nursing Exhibition in London last year attracted general attention.

The party then proceeded to the first floor, where several pupils had the pleasure of showing their rooms.

But a surprise awaited the Queen. She took tea with the pupils in the drawing-room, and a monitrice, Miss Gosselin, shyly came forward and asked her Majesty to sign a photograph enlarged from a snapshot in Manchuria. The Queen is in the Nurse's uniform which she wore when, as a Red Cross nurse, she superintended the nursing on a surgical train. This seemed to please her Majesty, and when she went to the lecture-room and found all the teachers, certificated nurses, and pupils of the School gathered together, she expressed her satisfaction and pleasure.

Before leaving the School her Majesty was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The pupils were particularly touched by the Queen's kindness in bringing three lovely baskets of flowers.

It is the first time that the pupils have had the opportunity of receiving such a distinguished visitor in their Home, and they were greatly delighted by the Queen's visit. Her Majesty was heartily cheered by a crowd of old women, inmates of the Salpêtrière, to whom her visit gave great pleasure.

It must be a great gratification to M. Mesureur, the Director-General of the Assistance Publique in Paris, and his Chef du Cabinet, M. André Mesureur, that the School has now more than justified its existence, and that the good work will continue to extend.

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