

editor, making various suggestions for the improvement of the status of mental nurses. Mr. Walshe holds that the first thing to be done is to improve the *personnel* of the attendants, and enforces this view with considerable effect by personal reminiscences. Here are some of them:—

"As an old attendant, I could unfold a story respecting the freaks and delinquencies of some of my fellow workers, though I am disposed to think there may be some little improvement on those days. Even now it is not unusual to see a number of attendants, who are employed during the winter months at asylums, engaged on the sands at popular seaside resorts for the summer months with blackened faces, twirling the bones, or strumming the banjo; or to recognize a familiar voice inviting you to 'take your photo, sir,' and at the end of the season, seeking refuge in an asylum for the winter months, or as long as it may suit their purpose to do so."

Two obvious questions arise. Why are more attendants required in winter than in summer? Is cold weather prejudicial to the condition of those who are mentally affected? And then again, are those who have proposed to place these itinerant performers on the Register of the Royal British Nurses' Association aware of their proclivities for banjos and "bones"?

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THE general use of the bicycle has greatly increased the capacity of the district nurse for work. One district nurse recently stated that she had managed to get through nearly double the amount of work during the year, owing to the aid of her machine. She was thankful to say that during that time she had not had one day's illness. She wished she could say the same of the bicycle. She wondered when she was going to understand the marvellous mechanism of the bicycle, with all its nuts, bolts, and screws. Through the scorching heat, and through the muddy, slushy, streets, her iron steed had carried her from house to house. We are inclined to think that a specially-designed motor car, which she could drive herself, and in which she would be protected from inclement weather, would be even more useful to a district nurse than a bicycle.

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MISS ALURED A BURGES, Matron of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, has resigned her position at that institution, as she is about to be married to Mr. Fallows, of Manchester. Miss Burges' nursing career has been a long one, as she went through her training at St. Thomas' Hospital in 1879-80. She is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and a member of the Matrons' Council. We have no doubt that in the new sphere which Miss Burges is about to enter, she will retain a warm interest in the affairs of the profession with which she has so long been connected, and her independent position will give her special opportunities of helping forward reforms at the present crisis. We wish her all happiness in the future.

## The Sanitary Congress.

THE Congress of the Sanitary Institute of the United Kingdom, which was recently held at Leeds, was formally opened by the Lord Mayor, Sir James Kitson, Bart., M.P., who welcomed the members of the Congress at the Town Hall, after which a public luncheon was held at the Yorkshire College. The inaugural address was subsequently delivered by Dr. Robert Farquharson, M.P.; the President of the Congress. The Health Exhibition was opened at the unusually late hour of 8.30 p.m., by the Lord Mayor. Professor J. Lane Notter, the President of the gathering, in the course of his remarks said that these exhibitions had a twofold effect. They helped to diffuse a knowledge of sanitary science throughout the country, and they were instrumental in showing faults, where faults were to be found, and of substituting a newer and better system of sanitary appliances, thus safeguarding the health of the people.

On the second day of the Congress, various conferences were held. Municipal representatives, medical officers of health, municipal engineers, sanitary inspectors, and ladies interested in sanitary reform, all discussed the subjects in which they were specially concerned. A conference on river pollution was also held. Mayor Lamorock Flower, who presided at this conference, strongly advocated the passing of a compulsory Act, and the appointment, under Conservancy Boards, of competent men, who should be given discretionary powers to see that the provisions of the Act were carried out. A suggestion of practical value was also made by Alderman Harding, of Leeds, who proposed that in each district or town, the sanitary authority, and the local manufacturers, should meet and confer, with a view to avoiding friction.

The medical officers of health were presided over by Dr. E. C. Seaton, the Medical Officer for the County of Surrey. In the course of the proceedings, Dr. Armstrong of Newcastle, drew attention to the difficulties which beset medical officers of health, and said that their business was to tread on other people's toes, and that this painful duty sometimes affected them pecuniarily.

The paper read by Dr. J. Brown, of Bacup, upon "Poisoning from Canned Foods," was one of keen interest to the general public, living as we do in what Dr. Brown termed "A canned fruit age." Various practical suggestions were made, with a view to minimizing the risks which the consumers of canned goods undoubtedly run. Many instances of serious illnesses, and even death, arising from this cause were quoted by Dr. Brown, who pointed out that the danger was caused, by the poisonous nature of the material of which many tins were made. Lead being considerably cheaper than tin, an alloy of one-third lead, to two-thirds tin, and even sometimes of two-thirds lead, to one-third tin, was

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