

tory results. We notice that it is also proposed that working men should be eligible for election at the next annual meeting. This suggestion has our cordial support, but we imagine that as *men* they are already eligible, as, equally, working women are eligible as women. Radical and self-respecting Scotland is surely not going to draw a line of demarcation between men and working men, women and working women. Though he honourably earns his bread by the labour of his hands, "A man's a man for a' that!"

INMATES IN CHARGE OF POISONS.

MR. JENNER FUST, Local Government Board Inspector, recently visited the Oldham Workhouse in his official capacity, and subsequently gave the result of his observations to the Guardians at their meeting. One matter to which he directed attention was that the two attendants in the lock ward, inmates of the workhouse, who were nominally under the superintendence of Nurse Barber, had the keys of the cupboards in which medicines, including poisons, were kept. He had drawn attention to the same matter in 1894, and was under the impression that the cause for complaint had been removed. He felt sure that no Guardian would defend the practice of entrusting medicines and poisons to inmates. Mr. Jenner Fust further said that he must remind the Guardians that the nursing of such cases by inmates was no longer legal, and he must ask them to alter the present arrangements. That it is possible at the present day for workhouse inmates to be placed in charge of poisons, and that the nurse who is nominally responsible should permit this, and be willing to accept the consequent responsibility, points to the fact that there is yet much to be done in some of our infirmaries before the nursing arrangements can be held to approach the modern standard of efficiency.

A PERMANENT PERCH FOR THE MICROBE.

Medical men who send their patients to seaside resorts are happy in the thought that they will enjoy the benefit of the invigorating sea breezes, which they can inhale without exertion to themselves while reposing restfully in one of the many comfortable bath chairs provided for their use. But does it ever occur to practitioner or patient what danger may lurk in the apparently innocent bath chair? To the seaside resort convalescents from scarlet fever, diphtheria, and other infectious diseases, as

well as phthisical patients, and one and all find the bath chair extremely useful. What happier hunting ground for germs could be found than the cloth covered cushions of these same bath chairs? Does it ever occur to the owners, we wonder, that frequent fumigation is necessary? If not, it is easy to understand that persons previously debilitated by illness may easily succumb to the ravages of a deadlier microbe than the one from which they originally suffered.

A NEW SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

Mr. Passmore Edwards has promised £10,000 towards providing a new building for the London School of Economics and Political Science. The site will be paid for out of the Technical Education Fund, of the London County Council who make a grant for this purpose subject to the condition that the building shall always be used for educational purposes. The site decided upon by the London County Council for the new building is in the Clare Market area, south of Clare Street. Clare Market, for long a most unsanitary and crowded area, will soon be improved out of recognition, and the site selected for the new School of Economics close to the Strand, and connected with Holborn by the new street which has now been decided upon, is most suitable and central. The school has been constituted a branch of the University of London, so that it is in a position to do excellent work, and should have a useful future before it if organised on wise lines.

INSANITY AND DRINK.

According to the annual report just submitted by the Medical Superintendent of the Joint Counties Lunatic Asylum, Carmarthen, drink is responsible for more than 21 per cent. of the cases of insanity which have been admitted to the institution. He asserts, moreover, that this proportion is below the percentage for England and Wales generally, this being about 30 per cent. With these facts before us it would surely be wisdom on the part of the nation to insist upon the treatment of those who indulge to excess in drink, in homes established for the purpose, before they lose their reason from its effects and become the inmates of our asylums, and the pensioners of the nation. The detention and treatment of habitual inebriates should be insisted upon as closely affecting the public well-being.

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