

encouragement to the inmates. He said "Institutions such as this, if they were as you and I would like them to be, would only be places of resort for the halt, the maimed, the sick, and the blind—the non-combatants of industry—instead of being, as they sometimes are, a refuge for the able-bodied labourer. Towards the problem of bringing about an improved order of things you men can contribute as much as we can. You can do your thinking even here. In your sons and old companions, whom you often see, you must inculcate steadiness of character, purity of thought, abstinence from drink, and freedom from the temptations of vice and gambling, which too frequently are the downfall of the class to which you and I belong. I should like you to determine when you get over bad times to co-operate with society outside to see that in the future good times shall be regularly established, and that a return to the workhouse shall never be repeated." There could scarcely be a more hopeful augury for the work to be accomplished by Mr. John Burns in his new office than the sympathetic spirit, with the failures in the industrial world, manifest in this speech. His appeal to their self-respect, and for their co-operation in effecting the betterment of present conditions, should kindle the spark of goodness so slow to die out in the human heart.

According to Mr. Louis Sinclair, M.P., who has just issued a pamphlet on the working of the present Poor Law system, which he condemns root and branch, the whole thing is rotten. He proposes the foundation of a National Poor Law Reform Association to press the question forward and induce the Government to take immediate action, and he points out that the appointment of a Royal Commission on the subject is no kind of guarantee that its report will be acted on, unless it has the voice of the country behind it.

Many facts and opinions are quoted by Mr. Sinclair in support of his case, and the setting up of an entirely new executive authority is suggested. "The exact method to be adopted," he says, "and the best machinery to be employed, are subjects for the consideration of the constructive statesman. I would suggest, however, that the present Poor Law Government Board, which is not really a board, must go, and that in its place an executive board should be constituted of a representative character, comprised of members from London and the provinces.

Mr. Sinclair is strong on the necessity of complete classification, and suggests that the sick, the imbecile, and the lunatic should be housed separately, as would also be the able-bodied whose work would be advantageously utilised.

The nurses at the Fulham Infirmary, Hammersmith, are fortunate in the possession of a most charming Home connected with the Infirmary by a subway. The Guardians have provided for the comfort of the nurses on a most liberal scale. Not only are the rooms convenient and well proportioned, but the furniture selected by the Matron, Miss Ballantyne, is in most excellent taste, with the result that the Home must be a real haven of rest. The prevailing tones of walls, curtains, carpets, &c., are soft shades of green. The sitting rooms for Sisters and nurses are divided by folding doors, and can, if required, be thrown into one. A piano has generously been provided in each room. There is a charming little room used for writing which must be a great boon. The quarters of the Assistant Matron in the Home are delightful. Indeed, the Matron, who still lives in the administrative block of the Infirmary, is not nearly so well housed. There are plenty of bathrooms, and, what must be a delight, a lavatory on the ground floor, with plenty of basins and a liberal supply of hot water, where the nurses can wash their hands without going to their bedrooms. Amongst other conveniences arranged for them is a bicycle room in the basement, from which, by an easy incline, they can reach the road. The lot of the modern nurse has fallen in pleasant places.

The Preston Board of Guardians are still awaiting reports concerning the question of providing additional accommodation for the nursing staff. As the want of room arises from the continuous increase in the number of patients, combined with the fact that the Board continue to domicile the nursing staff in the hospital, who occupy wards required for the sick, it seems high time the Nursing Committee and the officials should cease reporting and get to building a suitable Nurses' Home.

At the ceremony performed by Lady Cranston of formally opening the new surgical out-patient department of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, her husband, the Lord Provost, referred to what he called the "nasty remarks" passed by people in London regarding the infirmary. It was said they gave the patients

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