

We suggest that both a medical practitioner and a hospital Matron should be asked to present a report on the arrangements to the Directors, as in a matter of this kind a lay Committee needs the advice of experts.

Perth has taken a step forward towards the provision of a new Infirmary. The directors have been authorised to secure the site at Tullylumb. At the annual meeting the question of the retirement of Miss Logan, the Matron, was under discussion, when Mr. John Thomas moved that the directors be authorised to award her out of the funds of the institution a retiring allowance of fifty guineas per annum. He said he never knew any official who more seriously devoted herself to the interests of an institution than Miss Logan did. The motion was adopted unanimously.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Ceylon Nurses' Association, plans submitted by Messrs. Walker, Sons and Co., Ltd., for the nurses' quarters were approved. These take the form of a two-storied building, with 12 bedrooms, dining-room, drawing-room, hall, Matron's office, and hexagonal verandah, and two annexes—one comprising kitchen, store-room, box-room, servants' room, and drying-room, and the other being devoted to bathrooms. The Hon. Secretary reported that cable advice had been received as to the sailing of a nurse, and another would follow, bringing the staff to twelve.

The excellent work done by the Moravian missionaries is well known, and recently Dr. and Mrs. Hutton, who have just returned from the Moravian Mission Hospital, Okak, Labrador, gave a very interesting account of five years' work amongst the Esquimaux at a drawing-room meeting, on the invitation of Mrs. J. W. Elliott, Firshill, Pitsmoor, Sheffield. Dr. Hutton gave a graphic description of the difficulties involved in building the hospital, which is at the largest station, where 350 Esquimaux reside for the winter. The task of persuading the people of the value of medical treatment is a very hard one, as the tribes amongst which its work lies worship the powers of evil, and consider evil spirits responsible for sickness, and consequently avoid sick people wherever possible. When the hospital was first opened, and the people were told that they might all come at nine o'clock every morning, the Esquimaux, who take everything literally, held an indignation meeting to ask the question, "Why does the new doctor want to compel us all to be sick at nine o'clock every morning?"

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Last week the Prime Minister received a deputation of Medical Officers of Health and others, representing the National Conference on Infantile Mortality, who submitted to him resolutions adopted by the Conference. In reply, Mr. Asquith said the subject was of the utmost importance to the general interests of the nation. The reasons why, with general improvement in sanitary conditions, the evil of infantile mortality continued almost unabated were, in the first place, the ignorance of mothers; secondly, unskilful treatment by imperfectly qualified midwives; and, thirdly, the almost grotesquely bad forms of nutrition to which infants were often exposed.

Mr. Burns stated that the death-rate of infants and young children had been substantially reduced during the past two or three years. They now found that they were getting more help in the matter of infantile mortality than they had hoped to from the Notification of Tuberculosis Act. As they found infant mortality in the smallest houses where there was the largest number of children, they sincerely trusted that the Housing Bill, which must become law this year, would, with two or three years' operation, help them a great deal. If their Milk Bill got through the children of this country would have good reason to be thankful.

The Departmental Committee of the Home Office, which was appointed to inquire into the ambulance needs of London, will shortly issue its report. The members of the Committee, which was appointed in December, 1906, are Sir Kenelm Digby, Lord Stamford, and Sir William Collins, and the terms of reference were "to inquire as to the provisions made for dealing with cases of accident and sudden illness occurring in streets and public places within the Metropolis, and to report whether any, and if so what, improvements in ambulance provision are necessary or desirable; and how they could best be effected with due regard to efficiency and economy." The importance of the question is indicated by the fact that during the last three years accidents in the streets of London have increased 60 per cent., and fatal accidents 80 per cent.

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt has subscribed a sum of £200,000 for the purpose of building a group of tenements in New York where tuberculous patients can live under conditions similar to those provided in modern sanatoria.

The London anaesthetists have passed the following resolution:—"That the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine be informed that the section of anaesthetics approves of legislation to restrict the administration of anaesthetics to legally qualified medical practitioners." Such legislation would obviously exclude dentists from being allowed to give "gas"; it is understood that the representatives of the dental profession in London are likely to make a strong protest against such a course of events.

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