

will himself sing several songs, and Lady Maud Warrender, and Lady Speyer will also take part in the programme. The funds of the Scheme are at present not sufficient to allow of any extension of the work, greatly as this is needed, and the Committee are faced with the possibility, unless the annual income is considerably increased, of a curtailment becoming necessary, so we hope a substantial sum will be added to the Fund by these concerts.

Mr. Morton (Sutherland, Min.), in the House of Commons on Tuesday, questioned the President of the Local Government Board as to the circumstances connected with the bathing fatalities at the Hemel Hempstead Workhouse in October. Mr. Burns stated that the circumstances were most carefully investigated by the officers of his Department, and also received his close personal attention. The conclusions arrived at were indicated in the letters addressed to the Hemel Hempstead Guardians, and the Workhouse Nursing Association in December, and he saw no reason to depart from them. No advantage, in his opinion, would result from further enquiry. He did not think, in justice to Nurse Bellamy, that her friends were well advised in pressing for a reconsideration of her case.

The trouble goes deeper than is indicated by any single case, and is one more instance of the need for the maintenance of a definite standard of nursing education under State authority. Guardians could then have a guarantee that the nurses whom they engage are efficiently educated for their responsible duties, which would render such tragedies as the Hemel Hempstead one almost impossible. The Local Government Board is responsible for the care of thousands of sick persons throughout the kingdom, and so has a greater interest in the maintenance of efficient standards of nursing education than any other Government Department.

At the Annual Meeting of St. George's Hospital Nursing Association, Bombay, last month, at which Sir Walter Hughes presided, a report on the nursing in the wards by Lieut.-Colonel M. A. T. Collie, M.B., I.M.S., the Physician in charge of the hospital, was presented, and in expressing their satisfaction at the efficiency of the work done by the hospital and private nursing staffs during the year, the Committee recorded their appreciation of the services rendered by Miss Mill, the Lady Superintendent, and Miss Walters, the Assistant Lady Superintendent, to whose energy and zeal in the welfare and progress of the Institution this efficiency is mainly due. They also report a considerable improvement in the health of the nursing staff during the year.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Duke of Northumberland, President of the Royal Sanitary Institute, will preside at the annual dinner to be held in the Langham Hotel on May 25th. Among others who will be present are Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir William Selby Church, Sir John Cockburn, and Mr. Henry T. Butlin.

The tablet which has been placed over the bed at the Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, endowed by the Emperor of Japan, will be unveiled by the Japanese Ambassador on Wednesday, April 13th. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough has promised to attend in order to receive his Excellency.

The long-standing controversy over the disposition of the sum of £100,000 left by Mr. Benjamin Weir for a Cottage Hospital for the Streatham neighbourhood, culminated in an appeal by the Wandsworth Corporation against an order of the Charity Commissioners, under which a considerable portion of the endowment is allocated to Bolingbroke Hospital at Battersea. The matter was argued before Mr. Justice Eve in the High Court of Justice last week, when it was maintained that the money thus applied would confer more benefit on Streatham than any local institution.

Owing to the illness of Dr. A. J. Martin, the meeting of the Royal Sanitary Institute, at which he was to have spoken on April 6th, has been postponed.

The total amount raised this year by the Salvation Army's "self-denial" collection has been £69,084.

Grimsby Hospital was last week presented by the Working Men's Committee with a light department equipped with every apparatus for the light cure of diseases and X-ray work. The installation, which was said to be the finest in the provinces, was the gift of the Charity Gala Committee, who have already presented the institution with two new wards and large sums of money. In making the presentation the Chairman said that the Committee's next gift would take the form of a tube of radium to enable the surgeons to battle successfully with the scourge of cancer.

The programme of the Eighth Quinquennial International Prison Congress, to be held in Washington next October, is divided into four sections. Section IV. propounds questions with regard to children and young persons—special institutions are suggested for defective children displaying criminal tendencies, the condition of homeless children in large towns is mentioned for discussion, and delegates are invited to describe what measures are taken in their several countries to protect illegitimate children. Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise has been appointed to represent the British Government at the Congress, and members of the Scottish and Irish Prison Commissions will attend.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)