

the question of National Health; it's in a parlous state, morally and physically, and quack nursing won't improve it."

"I am going to vote for your Bill, and get friends to do likewise," my new friend promises at parting.

I squeeze his hand gratefully, and just as I rip down St. Stephen's Hall I come face to face with an ardent "anti." Of course we smile.

So it goes on, "Pull devil, pull baker!" In our estimation we are *both the baker*.

E. G. F.

The £100 Registration Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	79	9	8
Miss W. J. Cockrane (Moscow) ...	3	6	
Mrs. Hope Buswell (Mauritius) ...	2	6	

COLLECTING CARDS.

<i>Name of Collector:</i> Miss B. Cutler.			
Collected	4	0	0
Miss B. Cutler	1	0	0
	5	0	0

<i>Name of Collector:</i> Miss H. Sherlock.			
M. H. S.	7	0	
M. Milne	1	0	
M. Braye	1	0	
L. Berridge	1	0	
	10	0	

Total £85 5 8

It is satisfactory that our £100 Fund has now reached over £85. We hope that at the Annual Meeting in May we may be able to announce that the whole £100 has been contributed.

THE NIGHTINGALE CEREMONIAL.

A terrible gloom will now overshadow the forthcoming meetings of the Superintendents and Nurses' National Associations in New York. The "Nightingale Ceremonial," at which an address is to be given in recognition of Miss Nightingale's Jubilee, showing the splendid results of her work in nursing and hospital, will be delivered by Dr. William Welch. An interesting exhibit of books and other things concerning her is being arranged.

SOMETHING ABOUT OLD SISTERS.

When we offered a prize for memories of Old Sisters we hoped for some interesting recollections. We received but few. Surely many nurses owe much to these pioneers. Next week we shall have something to say about the Sisters we worked under in the seventies—depend upon it, many were real live women full of "go" and humour.

The Irish Nurses' Association.

Miss Macdonnell, R.R.C., President, occupied the chair at a meeting of the Irish Nurses' Association, held at 86, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, on Friday, the 15th inst., and introduced Miss Buchanan, Poor-Law Guardian, who addressed the audience eloquently on "The Condition of the Feeble-Minded in Ireland," and showed things to be in a truly pitiable condition.

The speaker told us that the percentage had risen from 1 in every 640 in 1850 to 1 in every 187 at present date. As Miss Buchanan pointed out even allowing for badly-kept returns in 1850, and also for emigration since that date, still the enormous increase was sufficient cause for drastic measures being taken. At present the Poor-Law Guardians have no powers of compulsory detention, with the sad result that many of the feeble-minded and epileptic women return again and again *through the maternity wards* to the union. Is it any wonder that lunacy is on the increase?

And of the prisons; we were told that they are being filled in the same way with these poor creatures. Time after time they are committed, one poor woman, only aged 29 years, having as many as 244 offences against her. For these not wholly responsible beings would not compulsory detention after a certain number of convictions be beneficial, even if only for a certain fixed period.

Men, in the same condition, irresponsible for their actions, are wandering about, doing all the harm and wickedness they can, and periodically finding their way back to union or prison.

Miss Buchanan argues that if homes and colonies were established where these poor, afflicted creatures could be detained, and both be looked after and made to work, they would help to a very great extent to remove a great national danger. She also spoke seriously of the Temperance question, showing that County Waterford, which, according to statistics, is the most intemperate county in Ireland, has also the greatest number of insane people, and she appealed to all present to use their influence and opportunities to encourage total abstinence.

Her address was most illuminating and was greatly appreciated by all, and a warm vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Lamont, seconded by Miss Reeves, and supported by Mrs. Kildare Treacy and Miss Violet Roberts.

A. CARSON RAE.

The Irish Nurses' Association have heard with satisfaction that Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, has removed his block to the Bill for State Registration. They have no doubt that the quiet but firm stand taken by the Irish Nurses' Association, as expressed in a letter which was placed before Mr. Burns through the medium of their good friend, Mr. Wm. Field, M.P., has helped materially to this end, and we congratulate those in the forefront of the battle in London—and ourselves.

V. R.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)