

In the name of the general public he thanked the 7,000 nurses, the Matrons, doctors, and attendants in Poor Law infirmaries for their loving service to the sick poor.

Mr. Burns's speech was punctuated by questions from both men and women as to when he proposed to give women the suffrage, which created so much interest in the members of the audience that the united forces of Church and State on the platform were hardly sufficient to regain their vagrant attention, till the Canon reminded those present that the meeting was by invitation, not a public one, that there would be "refreshments afterwards, and he hoped they would behave in that spirit."

Suffragettes are not to be beguiled with cake and tea, otherwise they could scarcely have withstood the attraction of the charming meal served in dainty china and at tables laid with snowy linen, tempting bread-and-butter, and the creamiest of cakes, at which you sat at ease, the while deft-handed and courteous waiters whisked about with pots of delicious tea. Did anyone give a thought to the unfortunate man evicted from the meeting, and last seen rolling on the ground outside in company with two burly policemen, because he did but say in the friendliest tones, "Now, John, you've got to toe the line; when are you going to give women the suffrage?" An episode which elicited from Mr. Burns the remark as the questioner was ejected, "Now, ladies, this ceremony would be incomplete unless we had a little ambulance practice."

The Infirmary is a fine building of five separate blocks, with the Administration Block in the centre (in which the Matron, Miss Constance E. Todd, and the Assistant Matron have their quarters). At the rear of this block a wide corridor runs north and south on three floors, giving direct access to the male and female receiving blocks and the main wards, which, it may be noted in passing, from the point of view of practical nursing seem unfortunately long, for the nurses will have to cover much ground in attending to the needs of the patients.

The wards are heated by central stoves, with an open fireplace at each end. Fresh air is drawn in through pipes in the thickness of the floor, and, after passing through the stoves is discharged into the wards through gratings at the sides. There are sunning balconies, special wards, and much thought has evidently been given by the architect, Mr. James S. Gibson, F.R.I.B.A., to provide the maximum comfort at the minimum expense. The Wandsworth Guardians and their Clerk, Mr. F. W. Piper, and the sick poor of the Union are to be congratulated on their new infirmary.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The medical students at Middlesex Hospital have decided to raise among themselves 1,000 guineas for the endowment of a Prince Francis Memorial Bed.

It is sad to think that some 80 beds at Charing Cross Hospital are unavailable for lack of funds, but the empty wards do from time to time serve a useful end. During the rebuilding of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital the patients of that institution were housed at Charing Cross, and in the near future they will again be opened for the patients from the Cancer Block of the Middlesex Hospital, during alterations there.

The Executive Council of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement announce that an important Conference of London and Provincial Health-Promoting Institutions will take place in the Guildhall on December 8th and 9th. The Conference will be combined with the Annual General Meeting of the League, and include the discussion of the following subjects:—(a) How to work a school for mothers; (b) how the problem of infant mortality is being dealt with abroad; (c) day nurseries; (d) what may be accomplished by Children's Care Committees; (e) health societies, their aims and opportunities; (f) the co-ordination of health-promoting agencies.

In the coming Parliamentary Election Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.C.S., F.R.S., is contesting London University in the Liberal interest.

According to a White Paper issued on Saturday last, giving a return of expenditure on Poor-Law relief for the half-year ending Lady Day this year, there was an expenditure of £1,777,857 on the maintenance of indoor paupers in the various unions and parishes. Of this sum £534,075 was expended in London. In establishments not provided by Poor-Law authorities there was spent £134,445. On out-relief there was spent in London £146,175; outside London £1,503,839—a total of £1,650,014. The maintenance of lunatics in England and Wales cost £1,259,367. The total expenditure on Poor-Law relief was £7,489,381.

Among the institutions which have organised special courses of instruction for Health Visitors and School Nurses, the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., has been giving systematic training for several years, followed by examinations, and its certificate is specified in the Statutory Rules and Orders issued by the Local Government Board among the qualifications necessary for a Health Visitor in London.

The report of the Bread and Food Reform League, which has just been published, states that the finely-ground whole-meal bread, and old-fashioned cream-coloured household bread and other foods advocated by the League, are now more generally used, and have been adopted at various

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