

dinner for the excitement that possessed her. The nurses were expecting their friends to tea and at four o'clock Emma heard the sound of voices and the tramp of feet coming along the corridor. She lay and listened to the visitors walking round the ward, and then they all seemed to congregate down by the door where the Christmas Tree had stood the year before. Emma called loudly for Minnie, but someone said "Hush!" quite sternly, and she was afraid to call again. Footsteps passed her bed at intervals, but no one stopped. There was no one to see the tears that trickled down behind the mask of lint.

Then, after some time, someone came up the ward with a soft step like Sister's, only there was a gentle rustle of silk with this step.

"Please, Lady," exclaimed Emma, when the footstep was quite close.

The lady came up to the bed and she said very gently, "Is there anything you want, little girl?"

"I only wanted to know if you could see the Tree," said Emma.

"The Tree! What Tree?" The lady looked puzzled.

"The Tree down by the ward door." Emma was breathless in her excitement.

"No, little girl, I can't see the Tree."

The situation dawned on Emma at once. She flushed to the tips of her little ears. "I'm sorry," she said, brokenly, "I didn't know as you was blind, too."

HEALTH WEEK.

The Lord Mayor presided at the Annual Meeting of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement at the Mansion House. Bishop Boyd Carpenter said they desired to begin with the children, and to do that they must add to the affection of the parent a due understanding of what was needed for the physical good of the children. He did not trust the instinct of the mother, and the League was spreading knowledge which was necessary to the life of the child. Professor Bostock Hill said that up to the present sanitary effort had been communal, but something more was now required. He appealed for the recognition of a "health week," and urged that a start should be made with "Health Sunday." The Church and the Press should co-operate in the campaign, and the people should be told that hygiene was merely the spread of the doctrine of cleanliness. They did not want to talk about disease, but to talk about health, and to maintain a policy of guarded optimism as to the future. When Church and State combine in promoting the health of the people something definite and useful should result.

PENAL REFORM LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of this League in Caxton Hall on Friday evening, the 8th inst., was lively and enthusiastic. Sir John Macdonell, who presided, struck the right note in opening when he called attention to the growing recognition which the League stood for, of the criminal as a human being like the rest of us, and insisted that, although there were many outward improvements to record and to hope for, their main concern was in the improvement of attitude of mind and of human relationships. Miss Kirby pleaded cogently in a clear and interesting speech for the mental examination of prisoners, and for proper care of the feeble-minded, and was well backed by Dr. Corner. Perhaps the speech of the evening was that of Mr. Ludlow, the editor of the *Prison Officers' Magazine*, who declared that the warders stood in the way of the reformation of prisoners, because they were treated with such unfairness that they could not serve the public as they might. Lady Constance Lytton seconded him in words which derived force from personal experience. Mr. George Montagu and Mr. Cecil Chapman moved for support for a juvenile community in this country on the lines of the George Junior Republic of New York. Mr. Montagu regretted that he must begin with boys only to avoid the antagonism of the Home Office, but Lady Constance Lytton and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst moved that such an enterprise would be unsatisfactory if girls and women were left out. The amendment was accepted by both mover and seconder, and the whole resolution passed with enthusiasm.

REFLECTIONS.

The Nobel Prizes have been awarded by the King of Sweden and the Norwegian Storting as follows:—Mme. Curie (Chemistry), Professor William Wien (Physics), Professor Allvar Gullstrand (Medicine), and M. Maurice Maeterlinck (Literature). The Peace Prize has been awarded to M. T. M. Asser, a member of the Dutch Ministry, and to Herr A. H. Fried, editor of the Vienna journal *Friedens-Warte*.

At Conferences in London, Edinburgh, and elsewhere the following resolution has been unanimously passed:—

"That the British Hospitals Association again affirms its unanimous opinion that the National Insurance Bill is incomplete unless it provides for hospital treatment, which insured persons must have if their medical needs are to be covered by the bill."

The anticipation throughout the hospital world that the Insurance Bill sounds the knell of the voluntary hospital system is thus confirmed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)