

THE ASYLUM OFFICERS' SUPER- ANNUATION ACT.

Sir Charles Nicholson has introduced a bill to amend the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909. It is backed by Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Millar, Mr. Harris, and Mr. Nannetti.

This bill, must not be confused with the Asylum Officers (Employment, Pensions and Superannuation) Bill, introduced by Viscount Wolmer, which deals with the hours of employment of officers and servants in asylums and proposes to amend the Asylum Officers Superannuation Act, 1909. It is strongly backed, and has been put down for second reading on Friday, April 19th.

[A private deputation, introduced by Viscount Wolmer, recently had an interview with Mr. Ellis Griffith on the subject of the Bill. The Under Secretary of the Home Office promised, on behalf of the Government, favourable consideration to the Bill, especially to that part of it which institutes a maximum seventy hours' week for asylum attendants.

IZAL.

The Medical Officer of Health of Guildford, in his annual report, discusses the proper and improper use of disinfectants. He declares: "It may be laid down as a safe rule that a disinfectant should only be used for purifying purposes after the resources of the ordinary cleaning processes have been exhausted. In other words, all visible dirt, or possibly infective matter should first be removed before the disinfectant is applied. This is also the most economical method, as much less of the disinfectant is needed under these circumstances: In certain cases it is allowable to add a disinfectant to soap and water for scrubbing purposes, as in the cleaning of floors." In the Sanitary Inspector's Department at Guildford Izal liquid is used and supplied to houses where cases of infectious diseases have occurred, including cases of phthisis. It is also much used for scrubbing floors, walls, and furniture in houses infested with vermin, and the doctor reports that it has been found very efficacious in this respect. This is really a public health matter, as there is no doubt that verminous conditions are prejudicial to health. The only other disinfectant used by the sanitary inspector is Formalin, in the form of tablets or liquids for the disinfection of rooms.

DAINTY PREPARATIONS.

The dainty preparations of Messrs. Lewis & Burrows, of 146, Holborn Bars, E.C., and supplied under the name of the "Ellanbee" Brand, are very general favourites. Benzoin Soap, Benzoin and Cucumber Cream, Benzoin Skin Food, and Benzoin Foam have only to be known to be appreciated, the soap, at 6d. a tablet, being most delightful. The "Sister" thermometer, which is a speciality of this firm, is also very popular with nurses.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

On the occasion of the reception at Lady Mount Stephen's on March 6th to the Presidents of the London Needlework Guild, which was honoured by the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to send for Miss Menzies, and to congratulate her on her election as Chieftainess of the Menzies Clan. The Queen's love of needlework is giving a great impetus to this delightful art. Nothing could be more beautiful than much of the embroidery exhibited by the Athene Society of Broderers at 26, Grosvenor Square, last week.

Thousands of women all over the world are aghast, though by no means intimidated, at the extreme severity of the sentences passed by magistrates on the militant women suffragists, and most indignant that the mobs of male window smashers, but a sprinkling of whom have been arrested by the police, have been practically let off, without punishment at all! Many of the papers omitted to mention their names and offences. This is quite one of the ugliest aspects of the present turmoil.

"What is wrong with England?" demanded Mrs. Morgan Dockrell at the London Opera House Meeting. Something is very rotten in the State indeed when durance vile, hard labour, and threatened penal servitude is all the use its Government can make of genius. That women like Mrs. Pankhurst, with her supreme organising ability, her daughter Christabel, whose mental acumen is astounding, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, the beloved "Sister Marion," with twelve years' absolute devotion to the needs of the most miserable and starving of East London's poor, to her credit, Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, the brilliant daughter of one of England's greatest women, Dr. Ethel Smyth, the finest of women musical composers, and dozens of other women of equal value to the State, should be driven to demonstrate against their degraded social status by the breach of laws, they have no power to frame, and for which they retain no respect, sounds a note of warning. We claim that what is wrong needs drastic and speedy remedy if the Empire is to stand. Yes the Empire—make no mistake about that. A nation of men who have no respect for the mothers of whose blood and bone they are—presents a most hideous spectacle to the world at large, and one which civilised peoples will not tolerate.

Who can doubt the truth of this who attended the meeting at the London Opera House on March the 7th? To reach the House we passed alone through a mob of howling and obscene men very little controlled by the police, and on leaving the meeting, we faced from the top of the steps a sea of horrible faces—the old, purple, bloated, blar-

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