

upon our Board's staff there is now an Inspector who is fully trained, both in mental and general nursing and whose services, so far as compatible with her other duties, will be available for consultation.

Mental Deficiency.

I. ACCOMMODATION.

In order to form a just estimate of the progress of the provision, both public and philanthropic, which has been made for the mentally defective, it is necessary to take into consideration a far longer period than is usually reviewed in an Annual Report. Twenty years ago, if we exclude Poor Law provision, the available beds in Homes and Institutions specially provided for the mentally defective did not exceed 3,000. To-day, including approved Public Assistance Institutions, they number some 25,000. As no provision of accommodation from public funds other than Poor Law was possible until the passing of the Mental Deficiency Act in 1913, and as the subsequent years included the Great War and the consequent financial restrictions, we think the progress made in this health service is encouraging. Much still remains to be done, but what is more satisfactory than the actual number of beds provided during the past few years is a very marked awakening of Local Authorities to the wisdom and necessity of carrying out their duties under the Mental Deficiency Act. This awakening is all the more remarkable as it has taken place in spite of the financial stringency and in spite of the fact that this service no longer ranks for a percentage grant.

Fifty-three County Councils and 61 County Boroughs are seriously and actively considering some scheme for residential provision, while only ten (eight County Councils and two County Boroughs) appear to have taken little or no action in this direction.

It is gratifying to note that the importance of this health service has obtained the recognition of so large a majority of public bodies. An estimate of accommodation likely to be available, if the schemes recently submitted to our Board materialise, shows that in about five years' time some 10,000 extra beds will have been provided. If this rate of progress is maintained, it should be possible to meet the demand for the most urgent of the young trainable and employable cases in about 15 to 20 years; but this will need active, continuous and prolonged effort.

The advent of the Local Government Act, 1929, has proved a great impetus towards the realisation of the extent and gravity of mental deficiency. Now that the Local Authorities can review the whole population of their districts, they are becoming aware of the fact that many persons in the Public Assistance Institutions, hitherto maintained as ordinary inmates, are in fact mentally defective persons. This has already led some Local Authorities to suggest the appropriation of certain Public Assistance Institutions for the exclusive use of the Mental Deficiency service. Four Public Assistance Institutions have already been appropriated for this purpose and more are under consideration. This will we trust lead to better classification and to more suitable conditions than have formerly been possible in a mixed institution. Generally speaking, few Public Assistance Institutions are suitable for the permanent detention of young and trainable defectives, but a number could be satisfactorily adapted for the use of the older lower grades. When each Local Authority has thoroughly carried out its ascertainment under the new conditions imposed by the Local Government Act, it will be found that the numbers of these older lower grade defectives are more than sufficient to fill any Public Assistance Institutions which can be set aside for them. The use of these existing institutions will allow the Local Authorities to devote their Colony provision to defective children and to the younger trainable and employable adults.

WILHELMINA JANE MOLLETT'S EARLY DAYS.

RECALLED BY HER SISTER LINA.

(Continued from page 183.)

On her return (to Hanover) Minnie was, of course, entered as a pupil (in the Higher Daughters' School) a class higher than her sister Lina, while the small Florence was relegated to the lower section of the same establishment.

The Franco-German war had shaken Europe. The children had admired the grand illuminations that celebrated peace. Now they were called upon to take their part in the political demonstration of the schools. The words of the German Empire's National Anthem were distributed to the pupils and they were requested to memorise them and rehearse them in the Singing Class.

These orders were given in a business-like way that neither questioned nor criticised a Government decree for obliging the people to recognise the sacred import of the following lines:

"Hail thee with Vict'ry crowned,
Lord of the Fatherland,
Hail, Kaiser, hail,
Feel in your triumph's glow
The lofty ecstasy
Ruler of men to be;
Hail, Kaiser, hail."

They fell like a bomb amongst the young Britishers of the College, of whom there were quite a number, mingling with the thousand pupils of the establishment, for Hanover's education was popular in Great Britain at this period of the nineteenth century. "Sing that stuff to our National Anthem?" cried Evelyn H.—a born leader: "Sing that stuff in honour of old William I—I *can't* and *won't*." Her opposition caught on. The budding representatives of Great Britain's honour held agitated meetings in the playground. Even a U.S. citizen of tender years, whose father was reported a millionaire, insisted on joining the conspiracy, "for I'd rather save your Queen than the German Emperor," she opined, "and I won't be out of the fun."

This in reply to a suggestion that she was in no wise in honour bound to political martyrdom.

It was unanimously resolved, by the conspirators, to sing the words of the British National Anthem to the British National Tune, not defrauding Our Gracious Queen of her right to her own music, unlawfully annexed by another State.

"And mind you all sing out loudly. Never mind what happens!"

Minnie heartily joined in the voting, but, for the rest, took rather a back seat as her singing voice and ear for music were never her best assets.

However, as this was assuredly her first political meeting, I insert the details, as faithfully as a memory, fortified by many a retrospective chat and laugh on this incident, will allow me.

When the patriot-conspirators were summoned to the music-hall for rehearsal, I think each one felt the sound of the bell as a knell to further advance in this especial centre of learning, if not indeed a summons to the vestibule of a fortress or dungeon, "for high treason is a very dreadful crime, you know!" I am proud to think that not one of them flinched. All arose at the word of command, including the extremely pretty representative from the U.S. and a volume of "God save the Queen," rolled forth heroically from a group of very healthy young lungs, quite regardless of consequences.

And what happened was this: The old Hanoverian at the piano, Herr Lahmeyer his name was (R.I.P. for many, many years), slightly turned his beautiful old face for the

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