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colloquy beneath his window: "Ye'd better pay him, Barney," was the advice of a friend to the afflicted husband; "sure the wake and the funeral would cost ye more than that."

#### "THE CRUSADE AGAINST DESTITUTION."

THE National Committee for the Break-up of the Poor Law now numbers, it is stated, something over 20,000 members, and the latest sign of its activity is the issue of a new penny monthly journal, *The Crusade*, the professed object of which is to promulgate the proposals of the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission. In the opening article of the first number, published in February, among other reasons given for the "addition of a new journal to the already overburdened list of periodicals," it is stated that the movement "has no party ties, and cannot rely on the steady and consistent support either of party organizations or of the party press." The scope and purpose of the journal may be gathered from the titles of some of the articles which appear in the first two numbers: Mr. Sidney Webb gives "Reasons why there must be a national authority for the able-bodied unemployed," Mrs. Webb contributes a paper on "The workhouse cradle and who rocks it," and there are two articles on the new Labour Exchanges. In the first issue an attempt is made to gauge the opinions for or against the Minority Report of candidates at the General Election, from which it appears that down to the time of publication the Committee had received 268 replies in favour of the Minority and 33 in favour of the Majority Report, though it is admitted that those in favour of the Minority would be more likely to reply to the inquiries than those opposed to it. In the March number it is noted that Sir Robert Price has been fortunate in obtaining the first place in the ballot for private members' bills, and intends to introduce a "Break-up Bill," though it is not expected that there will be any opportunity for carrying it this year. The same number opens with a not altogether correct representation of the new "National Poor Law Reform Association," formed under the presidency of Lord George Hamilton. It seems to be taken for granted that the Majority Commissioners are prepared to let the Majority Report die. The fact is rather that it is seen that the essential principles of the Majority Report, which are absolutely opposed to those of the Minority, can quite as well be attained in several ways, and it is the principle rather than the machinery that is defended. The Minority Report depends very largely, if not altogether, on its machinery. The journal is allotted free to all members of the National Committee who subscribe 5s. or upwards, or it may be obtained for the special subscription of 1s. 6d. a year.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL HYGIENE EXHIBITION, DRESDEN, 1911.

A PRELIMINARY meeting was held on March 11th, at the Cecil Hotel, London, for the purpose of forming a British Executive Committee for the International Hygiene Exhibition, which is to be held next year in Dresden. Professor Pannwitz, of Charlottenburg, who is representing the Scientific Department of the Exhibition in Germany, delivered an address with the object of enlisting the interest, sympathy, and co-operation of British hygienists in the venture. After referring to the part which Great Britain and Ireland had played in hygiene, he sketched the history of the undertaking, and pointed out that as Gladstone has said that sanitary teaching is of more importance than the passing of sanitary laws, the German exhibition would attempt to supply this teaching by practical demonstration, and so set people thinking

about the subject. He urged those present to take up the work with energy, and suggested that a British executive committee and a British honorary committee should be formed, and should be in regular communication with the Dresden committees. The speech was warmly applauded by an audience which included the Naval Director-General (Dr. Porter), Sir William Church, Sir William Leishman, Dr. Whitelegge (Home Office), Miss Anderson (Chief Inspector of Factories), Dr. Theodore Williams, and Dr. Bashford. Mr. H. W. Armit, who acted as secretary to the meeting, explained what had been done in this country to attempt to secure the co-operation of hygienists, and made allusion to the fact that, after the various Governmental Departments had been privately approached, both by Professor Pannwitz and by himself, the German Government was issuing a formal invitation to the British Government through the usual diplomatic channels to take an active part in the forthcoming exhibition. He further reported that the public offices, universities, and public institutions had already expressed sympathy with the project and had promised assistance. The Naval Director-General expressed his own approval of the manner in which the first steps were being taken, and Dr. Whitelegge asked a number of important questions as to the methods of procedure and limitations of the exhibition. Dr. Bashford and others also made remarks, and Mr. Armit, at Professor Pannwitz's request, replied. Professor Pannwitz then apologized for the extremely short notice which had been given of the meeting, and announced that he would wish to attend a larger meeting in the course of about four weeks, when he would have returned from Teneriffe whither he was conducting an international expedition to study the effect of high altitude and solar radiation on biological processes. Mr. Armit then proposed that the members present should constitute themselves the nucleus of the British Executive Committee, and that the committee should open an office at which the business of the undertaking could be carried out. He further proposed that the formation of the full committee and of the honorary committee should be deferred until the British Government had received, and replied to, the invitation of the German Government. This was seconded by Dr. Theodore Williams, and carried. The meeting broke up after Dr. Theodore Williams had proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Professor Pannwitz. It is understood that Mr. Armit will act as the organizer of the scientific department and Mr. A. H. Sigle as the business manager in the offices of the British Executive Committee.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE.

AN important stage in the organization of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine has been reached, as Dr. Breinl, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who was selected for the post of director by a committee consisting of representatives of the Royal Society and the London and Liverpool Schools of Tropical Medicine, arrived at Townsville early in January. The institute is under the general control of a committee appointed by the Universities of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the Government of Queensland, and the director's first task will be to organize the institute, which will at first be conducted in an isolated building in the grounds of the Townsville General Hospital. The committee of that hospital has further undertaken to maintain in the wards of the hospital free of charge patients under special observation, and to give the director of the institute every facility for clinical investigation. His main duty will be to conduct

inquiries into the tropical diseases of Australia, to give instruction in tropical diseases, and to superintend research work undertaken in the laboratories. Dr. Breinl was entertained at dinner in Townsville on January 5th, when the chair was taken by Dr. Frodsham, Bishop of North Queensland, who, Dr. Ahearne said in proposing the toast of his health, had been largely instrumental in bringing the tropical institute to its present stage. In proposing Dr. Breinl's health, the bishop said that he looked forward to the time when there would be fine buildings—a second Lister Institute—in Townsville, but the institute already possessed an instrument without which the noblest building would be an empty shell: that was a man capable of directing its operations. He looked forward to a time when the best medical students of the Australian universities would go to the Institute of Townsville for courses of study in tropical medicine, and anticipated a large increase of scientific knowledge, a great alleviation of human suffering, and the better colonization of tropical Australia. To paraphrase the words of a great Frenchman, if the Australian tropics were to be colonized the conditions of life must be made as healthy as possible. There were medical men in North Australia who had already learnt by experience so much about tropical diseases that they desired to know more, and the motto of the institute would be co-operation, and its aim the advancement of medical knowledge. He had himself worked for the realization of the institute for four years, and at first found little support except from Dr. Gordon Ross and Mr. G. H. Pritchard; interest in the project gradually increased, but it would never have been realized without the assistance of Lord Chelmsford, Sir Charles Lucas, and their great benefactor, Mr. D'Arcy of Rockhampton. Dr. Breinl in his reply said that he had promises of support from the Australian universities, the State and Federal Governments, and of everybody in Townsville, especially the authorities of the Townsville Hospital; he could not be grateful enough to Dr. Ross in particular for the kind way in which he had placed everything at his disposal. He was prepared to give enthusiasm and hard work, but the success of the institute most depended upon the collaboration of the medical profession in making it a centre of research.

#### DR. HYSLOP OF PIETERMARITZBURG.

DR. HYSLOP, director of the Government Lunatic Asylum, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, was presented last month with his portrait by a number of friends as a mark of their appreciation of his services in many capacities to the colony. The presentation was made by the Chief Justice, Sir Henry Bale, who said that he had never been called upon to perform a more pleasing duty, because during the twenty-seven years he had known Dr. Hyslop his influence had ever been uplifting and stimulating. The medical department owed its success largely to him, and Dr. Hyslop had gained the esteem of the members of his own profession, for they had appointed him time and again to the highest offices which it was in their power to bestow. As a volunteer militia officer also Dr. Hyslop had done work which had won for him distinction from his Sovereign and an abiding place in the memories of colonists. Dr. Hyslop, in expressing his thanks, said that all through his career in Natal he had received the most loyal help, and the same was true of the work he did during the Boer war, because he was fortunate during that time in securing the assistance in the field of some of the best men. Dr. Hyslop, who graduated M.B., B.Ch., at Edinburgh in 1879, was appointed to his present office in 1882. He has been President of the Natal Branch of the British Medical

Association, and he has served as delegate to the annual meetings of the Association on numerous occasions. He is President of the Natal Medical Council, and has been President of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, and of the South African Medical Congress. He is a member, and was at one time chairman, of the Health Board, and is a member also of the Pharmacy Board. He has served for twenty-eight years in the Natal militia, and is now Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff and P.M.O. He was P.M.O. of the Natal volunteers during the South African war, 1899-1901; was present in Ladysmith during the siege; and was twice mentioned in dispatches. He was also P.M.O. of the forces during the Natal native rebellion in 1906. The portrait, which was painted by Mr. Fiddes Watt, of Edinburgh, represents Dr. Hyslop in his uniform as colonel of militia, and Mr. R. D. Clark, chairman of the committee which organized the testimonial, stated that the portrait would not only be a lifelike reminder of Dr. Hyslop to his friends, but would be a valuable addition to the art gallery of the city.

#### THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND GUILD.

THE British Medical Benevolent Fund Guild, founded some four months ago to help the British Medical Benevolent Fund by making its objects better known, and by assisting distressed members of the medical profession, their wives, widows, and families who are beneficiaries of the Fund. It seeks, by personal sympathy and help, to get into touch with all the sorrow and trouble of this class, which can only suffer in silence. Its keynote is personal service, and among the cases with which its Associates have to deal are many to whom the gift of clothes would be as good as money, leaving the recipients free to use the dole of 5s. a week for board and lodging only. The Council of the Guild therefore appeals for gifts of clothing, especially, we are told, for women's clothing. Parcels may be addressed care of Miss Ruth West, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., and the name and address of the donor should be enclosed, so that an acknowledgement may be sent. The Guild also wants men's clothes, especially morning coats, and those of our readers who have garments which, though serviceable, have, for some reason, lost favour with them, could not dispose of them better than by sending them to the Guild. The Guild is also glad to have other gifts in kind, including books and magazines, coal tickets, and so on. It asks also for convalescent letters, and, it need hardly be said, will gratefully receive donations in money. The ladies who comprise it consist of Members who contribute not less than 10s. 6d. annually, and Associates who, while contributing not less than 2s. 6d. annually, are willing to take an active part in the work of the Guild. A leaflet, giving further particulars, can be obtained on application to the Honorary Secretary, British Medical Benevolent Fund Guild, 100, Harley Street, London, W.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION TO TENERIFFE.

SOME time ago an International Commission for the study of the effect of high altitude and solar radiation on medical and biological conditions was constituted, and Professor Pannwitz of Charlottenburg was appointed President. This commission has sought for some suitable place where the investigations entrusted to it could be satisfactorily carried out, and some little time ago the Peak of Teneriffe was selected. In view of the favourable conditions obtaining in the Canary Islands, and especially at the spot chosen, it was felt that it would be wise to study meteorological and astronomical as well as biological and medical problems. Geh. Rat Professor