

tions for nearly twenty-six years. He has contributed largely to medical literature, and former students will not soon forget his original and graphic methods of clinical teaching. It is hoped that he may yet be spared for many years to enjoy the retirement which he has now obtained.

THE HEALTH OF LADYSMITH.

WE have received the following telegram, dated Pietermaritzburg, March 5th, 11.5 A.M., from Mr. Treves, Consulting Surgeon with Sir Redvers Buller's Force: "I and Nurse McCaul entered Ladysmith Friday; first woman in State of town most deplorable; 800 typhoid. Ample and lavish supplies and comforts now in."

THE Duke of Cambridge, K.G., President of the Sanitary Institute, will preside at the annual dinner of the Institute, which will take place on Friday, May 11th.

WE regret to have to record the death, on March 4th, of Dr. William Marcet, F.R.S., well known for his researches on respiration. Dr. Marcet, who was in his 72nd year, died at Luxor, Egypt.

MR. HENRY CROLY has been elected to the vacancy on the surgical staff of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin. He is son of Mr. H. Gray Croly, Senior Surgeon to the City of Dublin Hospital.

THE first annual general meeting of the members of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and other Forms of Tuberculosis, will be held at 20, Hanover Square, London, on Tuesday next, at 3 P.M. The Earl of Derby, K.G., will take the chair.

Two special meetings of the Chelsea Clinical Society will be held in the Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Pavilion Road, Sloane Square, S.W., on Tuesday, March 13th, and Tuesday, March 20th, at 8.30 P.M., when a discussion on the Treatment of Rheumatism, with Special Reference to Prophylaxis and Cardiac Complications, will be opened by Dr. William Ewart. Among those who have promised to take part in the discussion are Dr. A. E. Sansom, Dr. David B. Lees, Dr. Archibald Garrod, Dr. Pye-Smith, Dr. Burney Yeo, and Dr. Isambard Owen. Sir Richard Douglas Powell will deliver a closing address on March 20th.

MEDICAL NOTES IN PARLIAMENT.

[FROM OUR LOBBY CORRESPONDENTS.]

THE **Midwives Bill** was down for second reading on Monday last, but as the House sat late on that night over the Budget proposals it was formally postponed to Thursday, as were several other Bills. These postponements will occur regularly now, and it behoves those opposed to the Bill to watch it at the close of public business, lest it should slip through in a small House in the absence of any objection.

THE **Local Government (Scotland) Bill**, which is introduced by Mr. Nicol, and is down for second reading on March 14th, contains two clauses of medical interest. Clause 17 proposes that a medical officer "shall be removable from office only by or with the consent of the" Local Government Board; and Clause 18 gives to a parish council or the committee of management of a poorhouse, power with consent of the Local Government Board, to grant to any officer or servant incapable of discharging his duties by reason of infirmity or age, an annual allowance not exceeding two-thirds of his salary. The Bill follows the lines of the Government Bill of 1895, but has not much chance of passing unless supported by the Government.

THE **Factory and Workshop Acts Amendment Bill** was introduced by the Home Secretary on March 2nd. He said that it dealt with the regulation of dangerous trades and abolished the system of arbitration. The regula-

tions when made are to apply uniformly, subject to certain specified exceptions. The regulations will be published in draft form; objections can then be considered, and if not settled by the Home Secretary, decided by a referee. The regulations might prohibit the use of any material or process which was dangerous. The Bill also deals with sanitation as regards outwork in unhealthy places, with overtime, and with accidents from boilers. It also proposes to deal with laundries, and to include fish-curing, jam-making, and creameries in its purview, so as to give proper sanitary protection to the workers. The Bill extends to 46 clauses, and does much to simplify the register, and lessen the number and volume of the returns. The general object of the Bill is to fill up the gaps in the existing Acts, amend imperfect wording, facilitate administration, and prepare for consolidation of the law.

THE **Public Health (Sanitary Inspectors' Qualification, &c.) Bill** seeks to place sanitary inspectors in the same position as Poor-law medical officers as regards their appointment and tenure of office. The inspector is not to be appointed for a limited period, and shall not be removable except with the consent of the Local Government Board. He will also be required after the passing of the Bill to hold a certificate of competence satisfactory to the Local Government Board, unless he has been for three years consecutively an inspector within the meaning of the Act. The Bill protects the rights of existing inspectors, and provides that an inspector may hold office in any two or more districts subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board. The Bill is introduced by Mr. Thornton, and backed, among others, by Sir Walter Foster. An attempt was made to get a second reading late on Wednesday, but objection was taken.

Homes for Inebriates.—In answer to a question by Sir Charles Cameron, who called attention to the complaints of magistrates as to the want of homes except for Roman Catholics, the Home Secretary informed the House that the complaints were made under some misapprehension as to the facts. In reality, 100 females and 2 males have been committed to, and received in, certified reformatories, and of these 99 are Protestants. More accommodation is needed, and action is being taken by many local authorities with a view to providing it.

THE **Taunton Corporation Bill** gave rise to a brisk debate on Tuesday on an instruction moved by Mr. Strachey to direct the Committee to provide in the Bill that the powers of the Corporation to inspect cows and dairies outside the borough be not exercised without a previous order of two justices sitting in petty sessions, and that such order be not made unless the said justices are satisfied that the local authority of the district has not already dealt with the case. The instruction was resisted by the President of the Local Government Board, and spoken against by Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice and Sir Walter Foster, on the ground that the public health would suffer by the needlessly complicated method of obtaining inspection. The Bill provided that the order of one county justice shall be obtained. This would not mean much loss of time, but the order of two justices in petty sessions might lead to delay in face of an epidemic of disease which could only be stopped by the prompt discovery of its source in some dairy outside the borough. A strong plea was also made for each county to appoint a medical officer of health. Finally, the instruction was rejected by a majority of 63.

THE **Companies Bill** has been put down for second reading on Monday next, but will not be taken on that day. So much interest is excited by the measure that the Leader of the House has promised at least three days' notice of the second reading. It will probably prove the most contentious Bill of the session. The second clause which affects pharmacists, and the third which would prohibit a company from carrying on the work of a physician, surgeon, dentist, or midwife, are already exercising the minds of members. The pharmacists wish to be placed more in the position of a profession, and these views, if unwisely pushed, may have serious consequences, and, it is feared, may cause the loss of clauses which, it is recognised, would be most beneficial to the public.