

may be made as early as possible after August 1, I would suggest that all intending competitors should send in the caps that they are engaged in making as soon as they can. After the award has been made, the caps made by the unsuccessful competitors will be returned to them.

AN esteemed correspondent writes me as follows:—"In your report of the presentation of the Silver Wedding present of the M.B.N.A. to H.R.H. the President, you omitted to give your readers the Laureate's pendant to the diamond brooch:—

"Take, lady, what your loyal nurses give,
Their full 'God bless you' with this book of song;
And may the life which heart in heart you live
With him you love be cloudless and be long."

I really think that Mr. Editor may be fairly congratulated upon his Summer Wallet. Had ever Pedlar such a pack before? He even has a baby to sell! I fear he will get but a song-price for the same. As a subscriber to the *N. R.* permit me to express my entire appreciation of the efforts of the Editorial Staff to render the Summer Number this year the best we have had yet."

THE presentation here referred to was the one promoted by the energetic Miss Durham, who worked right loyally in the matter. I have received numerous other congratulations respecting the Summer Number, very few copies of which are left unsold; indeed, the publishers have been unable to supply all the demands.

CANON HARFORD, who has recently written "Epigrammatica," has communicated a most interesting letter to the *Lancet* respecting the use of "Music in Illness," and asks the question, "Whether soft low music might not be used with advantage as a curative assistant in a considerable number of cases of illness, more particularly those in which the nerves are specially concerned." Of course everything depends upon the quality of the music. Some music I have heard in my time had very decidedly the opposite effect to that of soothing. The development of this suggested addition to our already formidable list of therapeutics will be watched with considerable interest, and in the not far off future we may be regaled at Medical and other scientific meetings with learned papers upon "The Banjo in the Treatment of Hysteria," "The Barrel Organ in Cases of St. Vitus Dance," and so on, *ad lib.*; and it will be more than strange if the Nurse of the future has to provide trombones and other musical instruments as an addition to her ordinary equipment.

At the last meeting of the House of Lords' Committee of Inquiry into the Metropolitan Hospitals, Mr. Frederick Andrew, the Secretary of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney, stated that he objected to have a committee of ladies formed to supervise the Matron, who was a woman of greatly superior knowledge to lay ladies, and she would not be likely to submit her better knowledge to their less knowledge. I should like to have had Mr. Andrew's opinion upon a "mixed" committee of both ladies and gentlemen, which a good many people appear to think should be appointed at every Hospital to supervise the Matron, or whether he objects to the Matron being "supervised" at all.

MR. GEORGE BROWN, M.R.C.S., also gave some interesting evidence regarding the objects of the recently-formed General Practitioners' Union, in which he stated that "General practitioners are not opposed to the Hospitals if they are properly managed and worked; indeed, medical men would send, and do send, patients, if proper patients. Whenever we find we have a patient who cannot afford to go on with attendance, or whose case is of such a nature as to demand more expensive appliances or different treatment from that which they can find in their own homes, we are only too glad to send them to Hospitals and find beds for them."

I AM asked to state that the fortieth annual meeting of the Birkbeck Building Society was held last Wednesday, at the offices, 29 and 30, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane. The report adopted states that the receipts during the year which ended 31st March last reached £9,519,070, making a total from the commencement of the society of more than one hundred and forty millions (£141,766,177). The deposits received were £7,993,047, and the subscriptions £244,927. The gross profits amounted to £284,315. The surplus funds have been augmented by £244,167, and now stand at £5,098,507, of which £1,628,240 is invested in Consols and other securities guaranteed by the British Government, and the cash in the hands of the bankers is £317,929. A further sum of £25,000 has been added to the Permanent Guarantee Fund, thus bringing up the amount to £150,000, and the balance £134,315, making together £284,315 in excess of the liabilities; the whole amount being invested in consols. The subscriptions and deposits withdrawable on demand amount to £5,247,712. The thirteenth Triennial Bonus on investing shares has been allotted, and the amount placed to the credit of all shares in

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