

Royal apartments), are at times positively offensive; but that the arrangement is not altogether free from the risk of fire, a quantity of oil being used, and large fires kept for boiling glue, &c., both of them inflammable substances, and as such considered dangerous by the Insurance Companies. Were there any other parts of the Palace to which these stores and workshops could be removed, the evil would be obviated; but every part of the building is so densely occupied that there is not the smallest available space for this purpose; nothing, therefore, short of an extension of the Palace can adequately provide for these services.

In the second place,—The accommodation for the youthful members of the Royal Family is on the most limited scale, very inconvenient, very inadequate to their wants at the present time, becoming more so with their increasing growth, in the worst possible situation, and without the slightest means of extension or improvement within the present building. To make this apparent, it is only necessary to state that the whole of the accommodation which can at the present time be assigned to the Nursery department consists of a few rooms in the attics of the North Wing; that these rooms are very small and very low; that in order to extend the accommodation within this very limited space to meet the growing wants of an increasing family, and increasing establishment, every possible expedient has been resorted to; rooms not exceeding 15 feet high, and of small area, have been divided in their length and width to convert them into smaller rooms; and as the Royal Children could only occupy attics intended for servants, it has been found necessary to cut the height of the ground-floor story into two, by the assistance of a false ceiling, which has consigned the servants to darker and more uncomfortable rooms than has been agreeable to Her Majesty's wishes. As the time is now approaching when very considerable fresh accommodation must necessarily be provided for tutors and additional attendants on the Royal Family, it must be evident that nothing short of large additions to the present building can adequately supply this want.

In the third place,—There is no proper and distinct accommodation for the Lord Chamberlain's and the Lord Steward's departments; those for the former have been taken out of that portion of the North Wing which is more immediately occupied by Her Majesty and the Prince; and the essential parts of these departments are still placed in St. James's Palace, and in still more remote quarters, which makes a constant interchange of communication necessary, in a manner very injurious to the proper control of the whole establishment. It will contribute very much to the more convenient occupation of the Palace if suitable offices for these departments were provided in a separate building, and the duties would be better performed by the change.

In the fourth place,—The kitchen and the offices connected with it are found not only to be inconvenient, but the kitchen itself is so placed as to have defeated every attempt to prevent its being a nuisance to the Palace. This was an evil which arose in a great measure out of the limited space available for offices on the side of the Palace next Pimlico. The purchase of property already made affords an opportunity, which should not be lost, for completely remedying this evil, and connecting with this remedy a more complete, convenient and efficient arrangement of these essential offices. The completion of these offices on a befitting plan would supply the means of placing above them a new room for large entertainments and balls, the want of which has been much felt. Whenever such assemblies do take place, the number invited is necessarily limited below what is desired, in consequence of the insufficiency of the accommodation, and a still further inconvenience is experienced from the necessity of removing furniture, and resorting to other contrivances, in order to convert one of the apartments, fitted up and appropriated to other purposes, into a ball or banquet-room.

In the fifth place,—The apartments in the South Wing are found, in point of arrangement, to be very inconvenient; the rooms are small, the communication very defective, and the occupation very unsatisfactory to those members of the household to whom the various apartments have been assigned.

In the sixth place,—The accommodation for the reception of distinguished foreign visitors within the Palace is very insufficient. With the exception of one suite of rooms on the ground floor of the centre building, there are no rooms which are either suitable or can be spared for this purpose. It is therefore obvious that only one suite of apartments can be allotted to any of Her Majesty's guests in the Palace at one time in a suitable manner, and that if circumstances should occur to render it desirable to extend the accommodation to a greater number, it can only be accomplished by devoting unsuitable rooms to this purpose, and must necessarily then be attended with the greatest inconvenience by diverting apartments for the time from their ordinary appropriations.

In the seventh place,—I may venture to add, that the sanitary condition of the Palace has not always been sufficiently considered, in thus overcrowding a great number of persons into small rooms, not always very well ventilated; but the necessity was great, and there was no other way of providing for the exigencies.

Having now stated the defects of the Palace as regards the want of sufficient accommodation, I will now, in accordance with the instructions contained in the letter above referred to, beg leave to submit a set of plans, showing the way in which I propose to provide for all the necessities of the case, together with an estimate of the probable cost of carrying the various works connected therewith into effect.

To the Viscount Morpeth,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Edw. Blore.*