

to Ottawa of patients throughout the world suffering from weakened nerves would produce an influx of population which would make this electric road pay better than, in his most optimistic moments, John McFarlane ever believed that it might."

THE MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS.

The Ministry of Munitions Act which has just been passed is the third statute designed to give the Government special powers in regard to the supply of munitions of war. The first was the Defence of the Realm Consolidation Act, 1914, passed on 27th November (ante p. 115) which, by section 1 (3), empowered the Admiralty or Army Council (a) to require the whole output of any arms or ammunition factory to be placed at their disposal; and also (b) to take possession of and use any such factory. Then the Defence of the Realm (Amendment), No. 2, Act, 1915, passed on 16th March, conferred on the same authorities further powers, namely (c) to require the work in any factory to be done in accordance with the directions of the Admiralty or Army Council; (d) to regulate or restrict the work in one factory or remove the plant therefrom, with a view to increasing the production of war material in other factories; and (e) to take possession of unoccupied premises for the purpose of housing workmen employed in connection with war material. In a speech in Manchester on the 3rd inst., Mr. Lloyd George referred to these statutes as giving him great powers of compulsion. "Persuasion," he said, "is always best when you can afford it, but sometimes you can't—there is no time for it; and one troublesome person—I don't say that you have any in Lancashire; I have never met one yet—if you have such a person, may disarrange, dislocate and clog the whole machine. You can't wait in a war until every unreasonable man becomes reasonable, until every intractable person becomes tractable; some people you can convince quickly, some take a little longer, and some do take such a lot of persuading. With the third class