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Editorial Notes

Melancholy News. WE are the bearers of very heavy tidings to all our boys and girls in the announcement that we have to make in regard to our beloved friend and chief, Dr. Barnardo. There has been a rather serious, although we trust not a permanent, break-down in his health, which has made it necessary for him to withdraw for the present from the close and immediate direction and oversight of the work, and has required his undergoing a strict course of medical treatment. We are not in a position to supply any very full details of this break-down, but it seems to have begun about the middle of March with a severe attack of bronchitis, followed by great prostration and heart weakness. An eminent specialist was called in, and, after careful examination, pronounced, as we understand, that the mischief in the region of the heart was very extensive, and that the condition of the patient was exceedingly critical. He insisted upon entire rest of brain and body and an immediate cessation from active work and excitement of every kind. Since then the worst symptoms seem to have abated, and the outlook is decidedly more hopeful; but we are told that the heart's condition is still such as to give rise to grave anxiety, and that, under the

most favourable circumstances, it is evident that a long while must elapse before the Doctor is able to return to his post. He will, in fact, have to allow himself, in the future, a very considerable relaxation from the strain of anxiety and exhausting mental labour that he has borne for so many years in the establishment and upbuilding of the great association of philanthropic enterprises that bear his name, and must moderate that extraordinary appetite for work that has been the wonder and admiration of all who have been associated with him. Dr. Barnardo's work without the inspiration and support of Dr. Barnardo's presence is more than a ship without the captain; one could almost describe it as a ship without rudder or motive power. In fact, only those who have been intimately associated with the Doctor in his work can realize with what a dreary sense of a great gap in our lives we regard the prospect; but we desire to commit the future, both as concerning the health and restoration of our beloved head, and the welfare of the mighty organization that has grown up under his hand, to the gracious care and providence of our all-wise and loving heavenly Father, Who has so richly owned and blessed the work in the years that are passed, and Who, we would have