

THE Sisters who have been expelled from the public institutions in Paris will be consoled by the knowledge that new hospitals are about to be erected by private enterprise in different quarters in the City, and which will be under their own direction.

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CROMER is in particularly good spirits just now, and greatly appreciates the very handsome gift of Mr. G. W. Collison, of that town, who has most generously presented a new Cottage Hospital, built entirely at his expense, and which was formally opened a few days ago. It appears to have been erected with every requirement necessary for the comfort equally of both patient and staff, and we hope in due time to be favoured with particulars of its progress.

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SILVER WEDDING FETE AT THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC.

By A. VISITOR.

IN accordance with a custom annually observed, the friends and supporters of this institution were invited by the Board of Management to meet together on the afternoon and evening of Thursday, the 5th inst. On this occasion, however, the day was specially set apart, for the celebration of the Silver Wedding of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the organisers of the programme which was carried out, are much to be congratulated upon the absolute perfection of every arrangement. It will be remembered that the greater part of this beautiful hospital has been lately rebuilt in memory of the lamented Duke of Albany, who sympathised so sincerely with those suffering from the special diseases for whose benefit the hospital was originally founded, and for whose treatment it is so specially adapted.

I never enter its spacious halls without a keen sense of admiration for the evident good taste which has been bestowed upon every detail, from the exquisite colouring of the mosaic floor—itsself a beautiful work of art—to the elegant design of the gas jets with their æsthetic shades, to say nothing of the stately marble pillars, the beauty of the bannisters of wrought iron, and the soothing tones of the coloured glass windows.

On the 5th inst., however, the floral decorations transformed the hospital into a perfect fairy palace, and I congratulated myself that I had arrived early, and could take a quiet view of the sweetness, undisturbed.

At 2.30 H.R.H. Princess Louise was received by a deputation of the Board, the medical staff, Mr.

Burford Rawlings (Secretary and General Director), and Miss East (Lady Superintendent), and before being escorted by them through the wards, accepted a bouquet from a little patient of the hospital—a vision of golden curls and fluttering blue ribbons—the sight of whose poor little paralysed leg caused one's heart to ache. The Princess then made a lengthy progress through the wards, greatly admiring the floral decorations (the Nurses having entered into a competition, for which prizes were to be awarded later), speaking graciously to many of the patients, and quite winning the heart of an old German lady by conversing with her in her mother tongue. At 3, the numerous visitors assembled in the large waiting hall, and were entertained with a concert, which had but one fault, that of brevity. Mrs. Henschel and Mrs. Semon sang an exquisite duet. Mr. Henschel then gave Schubert's well-known song, "An die Leyer," accompanying himself on the piano. With beauty of tone and tenderness of accent, Madame Norman Neruda played Raff's "Cavatine," the plaintive phrases of which formed a striking contrast to the sparkling themes of Léclair's "Tambourin," the second piece performed by the accomplished artiste. The rich voice of Mrs. Semon was heard to greatest advantage in songs by Schumann which were interpreted with spirit and effect, while the delicate tones and unaffected style of Mrs. Henschel lent special charm to the "Spinning-Wheel Song" (Henschel). Miss Janotha displayed her thorough command over the keyboard by a forcible rendering of a gavotte (Janotha) and a Valse Chromatique, by Leszetigbie. Mr. Henschel accompanied the several songs on the pianoforte, it is needless to say, in a perfect manner. Princess Louise then presented the prizes gained by the Nurses in the floral competitions between the wards, Mr. W. Paul, F.R.H.S., having kindly consented to act as judge. The first prize was awarded to the Chandler Ward, and consisted of two very handsome Doullon flower pots for future ward decoration; the second prize was gained by the Porter Ward, which received two artistic vases; the Princess Christian Ward was very highly commended, and justly, but, unfortunately, no third prize was given.

Visitors were now requested to keep their places for a few minutes to allow the Princess to depart quietly, after inspecting the show of cut flowers exhibited by Mr. T. S. Ware, and the exhibition of roses by Messrs. William Paul and Son, where she gave permission for a new bright crimson rose to be christened "Marchioness of Lorne." Meanwhile we had the pleasure of hearing Miss Anna Ditt recite "The Faithful Soul," accompanied on the harp by Herr Oberthur.

From four to five o'clock we wandered about at our own sweet will, during which time the band of the Royal Artillery performed an excellent selection of music,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)