

At the recent annual meeting, of the Liverpool County Hospital for Chronic Diseases of Children, a letter was read from an anonymous person offering to give a donation of £5,000 towards the erection of a new hospital to cost £20,000. The offer was conditional on three other donations of £5,000 each being obtained, and that a further sum of £10,000 be raised as a maintenance fund. The money must be raised by 13th June next. Mr. Holbrook Gaskell has contributed £1,000, and Mr. Alfred L. Jones has promised £500.

The objection to compulsory vaccination entertained by the firemen supplied by the Orient Line to work the Ophir's boilers has led to the whole of them being replaced by stokers from the Portsmouth Naval Depot. Nineteen out of the seventy declined to be vaccinated, as required by the naval regulations. Consequently they were discharged.

Mr. Frank Hales, a Cambridge professor lecturing at the International Psychological Institute in Paris, thinks that whatever may be the explanation of those cases of telepathy in which relations dying thousands of miles away appear to their family circle, it is very certain that such things are not due to chance.

Many local bodies have decided that their memorial to Queen Victoria should take the form of a hospital—or an extension of wards. The establishment of an Anglo-American Hospital at Cairo is contemplated, and the King and Queen have consented, in the event of the hospital being founded, to become patrons. £10,000 has been subscribed for this purpose already.

At Alexandria the Memorial will take the same form, and a committee has been formed to develop the scheme. It is estimated that the cost will be £15,000, of which seven thousand pounds are already promised.

### A Charming Memorial.

Picture tiles are quite the most charming decoration for the walls of a hospital ward, more especially of one devoted to children. The one and only drawback to their use, so far as we know, is their costliness, otherwise we imagine they would be universally adopted. One of the children's wards at St. Thomas' Hospital is now being decorated in this way by Mr. S. G. Holland, one of the governors, in memory of his accomplished and lamented daughter, Lilian Holland Holland, whose name is inscribed over the door of the ward. Miss Holland was for years a member of the committee of Sir Julian Goldsmid's Home of Rest for Nurses at Brighton, and took an active interest in the work of the Home. Her cordial co-operation and sympathy were always at the service of the Committee, who deeply regretted her early death. The decorations of the ward at St. Thomas's Hospital have been undertaken by Messrs. Doulton. The walls are entirely covered by enamelled tiles, the pictures being about three feet in length. They represent scenes in children's stories and nursery rhymes, the name in each case appearing underneath.

The subjects are such as children love. For instance there is Little Bo-Peep, Jack and Jill, Cinderella, and Little Red Riding Hood, and Jack and the Beanstalk. When completed the ward will be a veritable palace of delight to its little occupants.

## Royal Commission on South African Hospitals.\*

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### DELAY IN BRINGING UP HOSPITALS AND STAFF.

With regard to the lack of hospital accommodation at Bloemfontein we are told that, "In the beginning of April Surgeon-General Wilson, seeing the condition of things in South Africa, telegraphed to England for four or more general hospitals, and for more civil surgeons, and on arriving at Bloemfontein on the 23rd April, seeing the position of things there then, he sought for and obtained more doctors and nurses in South Africa itself. But these steps came rather late. We think the deficiencies of the staff at Bloemfontein were not thoroughly realized as soon as they might have been, and that more doctors might have been obtained and sent up so as to supply these deficiencies earlier. We cannot think that the difficulties of transport, which we are fully aware of, could have prevented doctors being obtained and sent into the town. The lack of sufficient nurses gives rise to similar comments. And with regard to the point that at one time there was no sufficient accommodation for more nurses, it appears to us that though, under the circumstances, it was right on the part of the authorities not to convert the hotels into hospitals, yet one or more of the hotels might have been employed to afford accommodation for nurses.

Speaking generally, articles were not commandeered at all in this town. Lord Roberts ordered it to be done, in so far as it might prove to be necessary. Private houses were certainly not commandeered at all, as in our opinion in respect of several necessities for the hospitals they should have been. . . . In our opinion the authorities are to blame for not commandeering in respect of such of the deficiencies we have indicated as could be obtained in the town.

Surgeon-General Wilson says he did not commandeer on the 23rd April when he arrived, because he thought the pressure was over. We can see no sufficient reason why bedsteads and mattresses could not have been commandeered. Though it is fair to add that certain steps were taken by the authorities with a view of increasing the number of mattresses."

Not only at Bloemfontein but at Kronstad also the number of medical men in the town were too few to properly look after the sick and wounded. "Orderlies, and especially trained orderlies, were also insufficient in number, and could not properly cope with their duties. There was also an insufficiency of bed-pans, commodes, urinals, and so forth. These deficiencies of necessity led to results similar to those which we have pointed out with regard to Bloemfontein in the early days and need not be repeated here."

With regard to two of the hospitals in buildings in the town at Johannesburg, we are told that "there seems to have been some friction between the medical staff at the Victoria Hotel, which hampered its efficient working. And in the Jewish School Hospital a somewhat violent quarrel arose between some of the lady nurses attending it, which led to some strong statements being made as to the hospital by one of them (Miss Boyle). Although the dispute, being one

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