

The Hospital World.

LORD LISTER AT ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL

Lord Lister last week opened the fine new operating theatres and children's ward at St. Thomas' Hospital, in the presence of a large audience.

Mr. J. G. Wainwright, the Treasurer, welcomed Lord Lister and gave some of the reasons which had led to the necessity for the new buildings. In 1893 considerable alterations had been made in the theatres, but, since that date, surgical technique had so advanced, and the number of operations performed were so increased that further re-organization had become necessary. In regard to the former children's ward, its closing was necessitated by the continual occurrence of measles, whooping cough, and chicken-pox.

Lord Lister said that he felt it an honour to be asked to take part in the inauguration of additions at St. Thomas' Hospital. That great hospital dated from the period of the Norman kings, and had been served by medical men of the highest distinction. He instanced Sir John Simon, whose sanitary work was one of the greatest achievements of the Victorian era, and Cheselden, who, in his love for his fellow men, which was the first of all requirements for the surgeon, in his power of concentration, and his manipulative skill, exhibited all the qualities necessary for the scientific surgeon. The additions which he was called upon to open were the operating theatres and the children's ward, the latter being, perhaps, the most beautiful that had ever existed.

To our mind the most important feature in the arrangement of these new theatres is the provision of a surgeons' room, where the operator can remove his boots and outer clothing, and substitute for them clean boots and sterilized blouses, so that no dirt is taken into the theatres. This necessary room has been provided in many of the American hospitals for the last ten years, and there is no doubt that in time it must be provided in connection with the operating rooms of hospitals in this country. Unless the clothing of the operator is strictly aseptic, the whole of the elaborate precautions enforced in the modern theatre break down.

The ventilation of the theatres is arranged on the plenum system. Air which has been adequately warmed and filtered is pumped in by rotary fans. The danger of unfiltered air passing in through crevices, or by open doors is obviated by the fact that the pressure in the rooms is always slightly greater than that outside them, and there is, therefore, no danger of unfiltered air passing in. It is estimated that the cost of the extensive alterations now being made will not be less than £50,000.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



At the request, and on behalf of the King, the Duke of Cambridge has undertaken to fill the office of President of the British Congress on Tuberculosis, which His Royal Highness will open at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, on the afternoon of Monday, July 22nd.

The King has given his patronage to the Surgical Aid Society.

We understand that the Treasurers and Governors of St. George's Hospital have come to the conclusion that if the efficiency of the Hospital is to be maintained a great effort must be made to secure some considerable addition to its income. The increase of absolutely necessary expenditure beyond the annual income is giving the governing body considerable anxiety, and in the coming year they hope to organize some great scheme, by which the interest and help of the large and very wealthy community living in its immediate neighbourhood, as well as that of others, may be further enlisted.

The Committee of the Hospital for Epilepsy and Paralysis, Regent's Park, having recently acquired a new site for the Hospital at Maida Vale, appeal for funds towards the erection of a new building. A sum of £30,000 is at least required for the proper development of the structure. Of this amount over £12,000 has already been subscribed, and a further amount of £8,000 is required before Michaelmas to complete the first section.

On Thursday, 20th, the Bishop of London opened the new medical wing at the Poplar Hospital for Accidents, East India Dock Road. The Hon. Sydney Holland, chairman of the hospital, said that within the past ten years no less a sum than £66,000 had been spent on the Poplar Hospital, and in addition they had been able to put by £10,000 for a rainy day. All that had been made possible mainly through the liberality of the Drapers' Company, a guild which had always taken the highest view of their responsibilities as to the disposition of their wealth. Altogether they had had £40,000 from the Drapers' Company.

The North-Eastern Hospital for Children has received a donation of £100 from Mr. Albert G. Sandeman towards the cost of the new building about to be erected in Hackney Road.

The St. Helen's District Nurses have, through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. W. Pilkington, been provided with a new habitation, which is admirably adapted for its purpose. The staff at present consists of a Sister and three trained nurses, and the institution is affiliated to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute.

A correspondent of "Health" having asked for an opinion as to the best method of dealing with insomnia, the reply is that no syrup of poppies, no

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