

Annotations.

FLOATING HOSPITALS.

Year after year this journal has called attention to the waste of waters in old Father Thames, as he passes through London town, and so steadily out to sea, in so far as the health of its people is concerned; and by its people we refer not to those happy birds of passage who flit from lovely country houses and rest wing awhile on their palace perches in its airy West End, but to the pale-faced, patient, toiling masses born and bred in rookeries, who from year's end to year's end never breathe a whiff of pure ozone. It is in these rookeries that masses of people are bred and live—poor undersized wizened beings who do not know what the joy of vitality means—rickety bones, suppurating glands, poisoned blood, dazed brains! Where, indeed, in this great city, is it possible to pass without meeting these wrecks of humanity? And every day, up and down, up and down the cool fresh water passes, with never a floating house of pleasure for the poor, a floating hospital for the sick, a floating play-house for its sad-eyed, dead-hearted children.

For years past the sea-side cities in America have by private benevolence, provided fine floating hospitals for sick children during the summer months, and that planned for beautiful breezy Boston is nearest perfection. In it the treatment of all kinds of children's diseases is provided for, with room for the mothers also. This year a new vessel has been planned with four decks. Forward on the main deck, there are two wards, each with sixteen beds, together with the necessary examining and treatment rooms. Further aft is a room specially designed for the modification of milk. Various offices and special rooms for doctors, nurses, and guests, with the requisite toilet facilities, are also provided for on this deck. On the lower deck the contagious wards are located. In this part of the boat there is also an atmospheric plant, making it possible to maintain an even temperature whatever the external conditions may be. An autopsy room and morgue are also provided for. The upper deck has four large wards, each with sixteen beds and the necessary accessories. The deck above this is to serve for the use of so-called out-patients, who no doubt will form the greater contingent of the total number of children treated.

Now, why should not London also have its

floating hospitals and floating convalescent homes? The tidal river is there, and the patients are there, but apparently our proverbial apathy is there also, as year after year goes by and nothing is done to utilise that priceless gift of the gods—the pure ozone at the water gates of the City, blown free and fresh from off the Northern seas for the benefit of its own people.

THE PARISH PRIESTS OF SCIENCE.

At the annual prize-giving last Saturday of the London School of Medicine for Women in connection with the Royal Free Hospital, the appearance of the eminent women present afforded ample proof that women lose none of their feminine characteristics by advanced training—in a word, they wore charming gowns, and the rooms were more or less bowers of flowers. Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D. (dean), presided, and in her opening remarks referred with pleasure to the fact that two past students of the school had been appointed to the positions of house surgeon and house physician to the hospital. The school was continuing to do good work, and had reduced its debt during the past year by £1,000, but £6,000 still remain to be cleared off. Mrs. Percy Sladen presented the prizes and certificates, including the St. Dunstan scholarship to Miss Somner and the Singleton scholarship to Miss Coup-land.

Sir Arthur Rucker, Principal of the University of London, in the course of an address to the students, said he had for many years taken an active interest in promoting the higher education of women, and had done something towards that end at the Victoria University and Bedford College. He was pleased to hear of the success achieved by the London School of Medicine, and wished it greater success in the future than it had achieved in the past. Dr. Rucker went on to indicate the aims of the newly constituted University of London, which he hoped would eventually be regarded as a great central authority worthy of universal respect. He congratulated the ladies who were devoting themselves to the study of medicine. It was a profession which would not only afford a means of livelihood, but would enable them to exercise the highest intellectual faculties they possessed as well as to render service to others. In fact, it would enable them to become what he had heard described as "the parish priests of science."

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