

## Annotations.

### CHRISTMAS APPEALS.

A note of sadness sounds this year with pitiful insistence above the clamour of the joy bells which usher in the Christmas season. It tells, alas! of distress, of hunger, of cold, of the sufferings of little children, and urges all who have a superfluity of wealth, nay more, all who have a sufficiency for their own needs, to deny themselves of some small pleasure that the hungry may be fed, the naked clothed, and the sick comforted.

Many are the appeals which are being made on behalf of the distressed. The Bishop of London, in urging the claims of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association, 46a, Pall Mall, says that the bitter weather which has come so suddenly upon us has produced acute distress amongst the poorest classes. He further adds that the bounty of those whose hearts are touched by the thought of their fellow citizens who during this inclement weather have not sufficient food, clothing, or fire, will, if sent to this Association, within a few hours flow out through the willing hands of expert workers to the homes of the poor.

A concert is to be held at the Camberwell Palace of Varieties on January 18th for the benefit of the fund for supplying free meals to the very poorest children attending the London Board and Voluntary Schools. Nothing can touch our hearts more deeply than the sufferings of children, and we hope the fund will receive much support.

A visitor to the Canning Town Board School describes in a contemporary the dire poverty of some of the children attending it. Six boys were there in rags, with feet bare from the knee. The faces of others told a tale of starvation; "deadly white, save for darkness under the eyes and for red noses." Bread constituted the only food many of the children had had for some time. A question in one instance elicited a reply as to where some tea came from: "Please, the lady who lives on the other floor gave mother 'arf a bundle o' wood, and we made some water hot." The half bundle of wood was the only fire the family had had that week.

Of all the agencies at work in this country in the relief of distress none is happier in its methods than the Salvation Army; it reaches the most destitute class of all, and deals with it in a way at once practical and sympathetic. This side of the Christianity of the "Army"

must commend itself to all, whatever may be their religious creed, who are moved with compassion for the destitute and suffering. One great reason for the success of the Army's work is, no doubt, that it follows the example of the Divine Head of the Church in relieving the physical necessities of the poor, as well as ministering to their spiritual needs.

### THE NOBEL PRIZES.

According to a telegram from Stockholm, published by the *Malmo Tidning*, this year's Nobel prizes have been awarded as follows:—

Literature.—Professor Theodore Mommsen, of Berlin.

Peace.—Professor Friedrich von Martens, Professor of International Law in St. Petersburg.

Medicine.—Major Ronald Ross, of the School of Tropical Medicine, Liverpool.

Chemistry.—Professor Emil Fisher, of Berlin.

Physics.—Divided between Professors Lorenz and Zeeman, of Holland.

### THE MARGARET HUXLEY GOLD MEDAL.

The nurses past and present of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital have given expression to the affectionate regard and sincere admiration in which they held their Matron, Miss Margaret Huxley.

On the occasion of the severance of her connection with the hospital, after eighteen years of continuous work there, they subscribed a considerable sum of money and handed it over to the Governors of the Hospital, in trust, for the purpose of founding a gold medal to be called "The Margaret Huxley Prize."

This prize is to be given biennially to the best nurse trained in the hospital, this being decided by (1) marks given by the Matron for the time being, in conduct and general nursing ability, together with (2) the marks obtained in the theoretical examinations.

We believe this is a unique testimonial, for it is founded by nurses for nurses. It is a lasting memorial of the appreciation in which Miss Huxley was held by those for whom she worked, an appreciation which has for its object the improvement of those who follow in the footsteps of the founders, footsteps leading to an honourable profession which few have advanced more than Miss Huxley. It is pleasing to think that this spontaneous appreciation comes from Irish nurses to their English Matron, whom they now regard as one of themselves.

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