

place of the quite inadequate library accommodation the school previously possessed. For this welcome gift the hospital authorities are indebted to the generosity of Sir Frederick Wills, Bart., M.P., who has handed the Governors a sum of over £6,000. The donor presented prizes to the successful students, an address was delivered by Gen. Sir Richard Harrison, and a very successful garden party followed.

An enthusiastic reception was accorded the Duke and Duchess of Connaught by the people of Walthamstow on Saturday, when their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to the Leyton, Walthamstow, and Wanstead Hospital for the purpose of opening a new ward and out-patient department at that institution. The new ward increases the accommodation of the hospital from thirty-five to forty-five beds, while the out-patient department, in addition to being fully equipped for the treatment of sufferers of that description, also comprises an operating-room, a casualty-room, and increased accommodation for the nursing staff.

The hospital is situated in a neighbourhood where it is urgently needed, and is working at high pressure to meet the increasing demands made upon it. Miss Clarissa Hunter, the present Matron, has held office for the past eight years, and has had the satisfaction of seeing almost daily improvements in its management. Some day, no doubt, a very large general hospital will be needed on this site.

There was some amount of ridicule cast upon the members of the Committee which has had charge of the undertaking when they proposed that the great building which for the past two or three years has been in course of erection at Warringham should be styled a mental hospital instead of a lunatic asylum. But the Committee and the majority of the Council were right in their decision. Such an establishment, if it be conducted on proper and modern lines, is a hospital and not an asylum. The days are happily past when persons suffering with the most terrible of all afflictions are thrown into noisome dens and manacled like wild beasts. To-day it is recognised that such institutions are in the best sense of the word hospitals, and the result is that a large percentage of cures is recorded as the result of the more rational and humane treatment to which these unfortunates are subjected, while, at the same time, the feelings of parents, relatives, and friends are not lacerated by the use of a term which was not only brutal, but incorrect.

The Croydon Mental Hospital has now been formally opened, and we congratulate the Committee on their wise course of action. The building is a huge one, and, so far as can be seen from a cursory inspection, is admirably designed and appointed.

The Duchess of Somerset has sent £271 6s. to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, as the result of her recent concert at Seaford House in aid of the building fund of this institution.

A meeting of the new Provisional Ladies' Working Committee, formed in aid of the fund for rebuilding the Royal Hospital for Children and Women in Waterloo Bridge Road, was recently held at Derby House, St. James's Square.

## Our Foreign Letter.

DEAR MADAM,—Your readers, perhaps, might be interested in a few details of the work out here in South China.

We have had a hospital now here in Fatshan, fifteen miles from Canton, for about twenty-two years. It is now entirely self-supporting.

For many years not any grant has been made by the Society. We have found the Chinese value what they pay for, and are less suspicious. Naturally, they do not understand why a "foreign devil" should learn their language and heal freely, give unlimited medicine away, talk about some mysterious doctrine of Jesus, and not make some good thing out of it. So what they cannot see they suspect. What they suspect is never to our credit. We meet this by asking them to pay as they are able and willing. It certainly encourages self-respect, and does us no harm. We try to do all openly. Hence we encourage sick people to bring some members of their family or friends to do the necessary nursing in the wards. This acts many ways. The healthy have the Gospel preached to them, the sick are nursed by their own people under our direction and watchful care, and suspicion and fear are allayed by reason of the presence of friends. Furthermore, to keep a staff of servants able to do the nursing would be a very heavy drain on finances; we could not stand it. Indeed, I doubt if we could find sufficient people willing to learn how to nurse without receiving big sums, and willing to stay, having learnt, without bigger sums. So that friends to nurse is good all round for us. I know not for other hospitals. We give personal attention to each patient. The few employees we have are really excellent, and take an interest in the work, as they are good Christians, and now know enough to call us if danger is feared. All the ideas of nursing and after-treatment which are associated with English nursing are knocked on the head here. It takes years to teach a Chinese nurse to keep her hands clean! They hate having short finger-nails. Even one of my native students, after nearly three years' training, came to an abdominal operation with a finger-nail a quarter of an inch long! Teach them to keep hands, &c., clean. They fail to understand that their dress, "washed only last week!" may be dirty to-day. But "what the eye does not see the heart need not trouble about," and the eye certainly cannot see microbes. "Let us not worry!"

In spite of all, which all includes the fact that sick people dislike (and, indeed, decline) washing the body, we get excellent results, even healing by "first intention," which is an extraordinary fact, especially when it is remembered that the present hospital is small, narrow, cramped to a degree, hemmed in by houses in the centre of the Chinese city, and nearly always full of bad cases!

Is it any wonder that we sigh for the day when we shall have enough money to put up a new place on modern, healthy lines, on the new ground we



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