

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES.

A tremendous burst of cheering announced the arrival of the Queen, escorted by a detachment of Royal Horse Guards, at the entrance of a specially-erected pavilion at the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Donnybrook. The grounds were in great perfection, and looked their very best, as, indeed, did everything and everybody on this eventful day; the beautiful old elms and horse-chestnut trees waved exquisitely green in the delicate breeze, and sweet peas, geraniums, lilies and roses, blooming in profusion, lent brilliance and gaiety to the scene.

On alighting, the Queen accepted a bouquet from a dear little man of seven (suffering with cancer in the mouth—oh, cruel fate!), patted him kindly on the head, and shook hands with the little fellow. Then several members of the Managing Committee, and the popular Lady Superintendent, Miss Bradshaw, were presented by the Countess of Dudley, and passing down the corridor, made bright by the Sisters and nurses in their pretty pale blue and pink zephyr gowns and spotless caps and aprons, the Queen was conducted through the wards. She spoke to each patient, and to each gave a nosegay of roses, carnations, and lilies. She was specially interested in the Women's Ward for Consumption, and said how charming she thought its arrangements. The patients who were able to be up all stood at the doors of their cubicles, and were the recipients of many kind words and smiles; one poor woman suffering from asthma was so excited that she kept calling out "The Queen! the Queen!" and Her Majesty went into her cubicle and shook hands with her.

Queen Alexandra was finally conducted to the Women's Day Room, where she signed the visitors' book, and before leaving the hospital commanded the presentation of the remaining members of the Managing Committee, who were accordingly introduced into her presence in a body by the chairman, Mr. William Fry.

Mr. Fry expressed in a few words the gratitude of the Committee at Her Majesty's visit, and for the great honour she had thus conferred on the institution. He further expressed the sincere wishes of the Board for her future blessing and happiness.

The Hospital for Incurables was founded so far back as the year 1743 through the efforts of an amateur musical society. Having spent eleven years in a small and unsuitable place in Fleet Street, it was removed to more spacious premises in another part of the city, where, after passing through many vicissitudes, it was granted a Charter by King George III. Under this Charter the premises known as Buckingham Hospital, with the adjoining lands of Donnybrook Road, were acquired by the Governors, and here the institution has since grown and flourished. In 1886 this Charter was supplemented by a further

one, consequent on the growth of the institution, by Queen Victoria, and in 1887 Her late Majesty commanded that it should be known as the Royal Hospital for Incurables. On June 29th, 1887, Prince Albert Victor, late Duke of Clarence, who was then accompanied by the present Prince of Wales, laid the foundation stone of the Victoria Jubilee wing. Accommodation is provided in the institution for 211 patients, seventy beds being specially set apart in a separate ward for cases of cancer and consumption.

A DAUGHTER OF ERIN.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL, BELFAST.

The fine new hospital—the Royal Victoria—at Belfast was opened by the King and Queen on Monday last. The Lord Mayor presented Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pirrie, and Mrs. Pirrie handed to the King a gold key, with which he opened the main door. The medical and nursing staffs played a prominent part in the function, and the Queen named "The Clarence Ward." We hope to find space next week for further reference to this fine institution.

Nursing the Sick at Sea.

The appended letter has been sent by Miss Kate Penn, a certificated nurse, to the Chairmen of the various shipping companies, hoping to arouse their interest in a scheme for nursing the sick at sea:—

"Having come in contact during my professional career as a lady nurse with numerous people who have travelled throughout the world, many of whom have often expressed the need of having a skilled nurse on board of passenger steamers, it has occurred to me that an Association of Lady Nurses might be inaugurated to supply this long-felt want.

"I have mentioned the fact to some of the leading doctors and Matrons, who promise to give me every assistance in forming such an Association.

"The following are my ideas for carrying out this object, which I respectfully desire you to place before your board for its consideration and approval:—

- "(a) That a fully-trained certificated lady nurse accompany all passenger steamers (especially those going to the East) to attend all passengers, irrespective of class.
- "(b) That such nurses act in accordance with and under the directions of the ship's doctor.
- "(c) A small retaining fee to be paid for the services of each nurse supplied by the Association.
- "(d) A distinctive uniform to be supplied at the expense of the steamship company.
- "(e) The steamship company to provide a cabin, with full board, for the use of the nurse.
- "(f) The nurse to enter into a twelve months' agreement with the steamship company.
- "(g) That the nurse shall be allowed certain leave of absence during the continuance of the agreement, not exceeding in all the period of two months.
- "(h) That a register of nurses for the supply the steamship company be kept."

We wish Miss Penn's idea all success.

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