

expressed their willingness to do so. With Mr. Kissel's contribution the Governors have secured the full amount.

Dr. Mary Morris, M.B. London, has been appointed House Surgeon at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

Mr. Handel Cossham, who, as we recently announced, bequeathed the reversion of his fortune after the death of his widow to provide a hospital, which is to be built at Kingswood, near Bristol, for the sick and injured of both sexes, concluded the document making the bequest in the following terms:—"It being my earnest wish that I may be hereafter remembered by the sick and suffering as a friend who, in death as well as in life, has felt it his duty to try to lessen human suffering and increase human happiness."

The Holbeach Guardians have decided to purchase a disused railway carriage for an isolation hospital, to be in readiness in case of small-pox. The Board fear that the disease may be introduced from Cambridge by tramps passing through the district.

The number of lunatics under control in Ireland is 22,000, an increase of 1,000 in two years and an increase of over 9,000 since 1880.

The *Jewish Chronicle* announces that Dr. Alexander Marmorek, who is the head of the Pasteur Institute in France, and a leading Zionist, will within the next few weeks announce the discovery of a new curative treatment for tuberculosis. The doctor is said to have been testing the treatment for six years, and now regards it as perfected.

Signor Pietro Cartoni, a rich Roman agriculturist of Naxea, who has recently lost two children from tuberculosis, has offered a million francs for the erection outside the walls of Rome, and for the partial endowment, of a great sanatorium for tuberculous patients. He also announces his intention of bequeathing all he possesses to the same object.

As we reported recently, the Government of Algeria is organising a gratuitous service of female practitioners for the Moslem women in that country, and is appealing for assistance to medical women possessing the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Native students are to be granted pecuniary assistance to undertake the study of medicine, and it is satisfactory to learn that all the expense connected with these different services will be defrayed without any increase in the Algerian Budget, as a tax on the natives which has recently been slightly increased, and which has hitherto been applied exclusively to works of charity, hygiene, and general utility in regard to the native population, will cover the expense.

The patients are to be cared for by Mussulman nurses, and their food prepared for them by their co-religionists. The services of medical women are being secured because it was found that in Algiers where gratuitous consultations were in the hands of a fully-qualified woman excellent results were obtained, from fifty to sixty native women presenting themselves for treatment at each consultation, whereas at the Arab encampments attended by medical men it was found to be almost impossible for them to treat the Arab women.

A Poet's Dream.

An interesting lecture given by Dr. Gee before the Abernethian Society at St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Abraham Cowley, who lived in the 17th century, and, though perhaps best known as a poet, was also an M.D. of Oxford, is published in the *Journal of the Hospital*. Specially interesting at the present time was Cowley's dream of a University for London. In this connection Dr. Gee said:—

"London has had a university in name for sixty years and more—a mere examining board. Efforts are now being made to develop it into a teaching university, but should these efforts be successful the result will fall far short of Cowley's idea. Cowley's intention was the same as that of Salomon's House in Bacon's *New Atlantis*: 'The end of our foundation is the knowledge of causes and secret motions of things, and the enlarging of the bounds of human empire to the effecting of all things possible.'

"Cowley's main object was the advancement of learning by research. His professors were to be devoted to experiment, observation, discovery, and invention. The education of youth would have been a secondary purpose. His students would have learned more from what they saw than from what they heard, more from example than from precept; they would have taught themselves.

"Cowley's college remained a poet's dream. Yet it had an unforeseen result, and promoted the foundation of the Royal Society. Sprat, the friend of Cowley and historian of that Society, tells us that it had its beginning in the year 1660, when a number of learned men, who had been in the habit of meeting in Gresham College, began to imagine some greater thing. 'While they were thus ordering their platform there came forth a treatise which very much hastened its contrivance, and that was a proposal by Master Cowley of erecting a philosophical college. Some of the particulars of his draft the Royal Society is now putting in practice' (Sprat). But the Royal Society is no more than a small part of what Cowley's college would have been. 'However,' says Sprat, 'it was not the excellent author's fault that he thought better of the age than it did deserve; his purpose in it was like himself, full of honour and goodness.' In the first official record of the Society, dated November 20th, 1660, appeared a list of persons who were judged to be willing and fit to join in the design. In this list appear the names of many eminent physicians, Dr. Cowley being one of the number.

"Cowley celebrated the Society in a noble ode prefixed to Sprat's history. Much of the poem is a celebration of Francis Bacon, who at that time and long afterwards was deemed to have done more than any other man to promote natural philosophy. In the last—the nineteenth—century persons arose who, animated by the envy which is innate in vulgar souls, denied Bacon's worth, and strove to belittle his greatness. But to Cowley, Bacon is the Moses who set men free from Egyptian thralldom, and idolatrous worship of traditional authority, that 'scarecrow deity.' The first book of the *Novum Organum* is a grand hymn prophetic of the time when men shall take possession of the golden lands of new philosophies, which, from the mountain-top of his exalted wit, Bacon sees and points out to others, but which he himself is not allowed to enter and possess."

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