

authorities will follow the spirit of his instructions. They may in time realise that small-pox is a disease which makes no distinctions of race or creed. Meantime, whether we are permitted to establish hospitals or not, the need for money is most urgent. The diseases which are raging here are for the most part the result of cold, and the only way to combat them is to distribute blankets in every burned village. So far, we have been able to supply only the northern districts, and that on an exceedingly meagre scale. For the moment we have only enough blankets here to supply the temporary hospitals which we have tried to establish. We expect your consignment from England in a few days, but meantime the funds at our disposal here do not permit us to make sufficiently extensive purchases. We are not yet distributing food here, for most of the southern villages have supplies for one month or thereabouts since they have just received from the Government a dole of 22½ piastres (nearly 4s.) for each person by way of compensation for the destruction of their food supplies."

Writing from Monastir a little later, Mr. Brailsford says:—

"Our hospital in Castoria is now in working order, under the charge of an English Sister of Mercy, with two Albanian Sisters under her orders. Thanks to the good offices of the English and French Consuls-General in Salonika, these Sisters came with the utmost despatch, and their knowledge of the country and its language is a guarantee that their trained skill and disciplined charity will encounter no needless difficulty.

"In Castoria and Ochrida we have our own salaried doctors who tour among the villages. At Ochrida, the surgical hospital under Mrs. Brailsford's charge does not lack for patients. New cases arrive constantly—four days ago a woman and her two children were shot by their Turkish neighbours.

"In Ochrida we are also starting a second hospital for infectious diseases. An epidemic of diphtheria, which threatens to assume grave proportions, has attacked four villages half a day's journey from the town.

"These hospitals, which at the best are only intended to be temporary expedients, can only accommodate the more serious cases. The number of out-patients with wounds and diseases who receive medical and other aid is so large and fluctuating that no precise statistics could be given."

In the absence of telephonic communication, Mr. Johnson, M.B., of Alexandra, Victoria, recently imported a number of splendid carrier pigeons, in the hope of training them to aid suffering humanity. That he has accomplished the task is evident from the fact that one of the birds, that had been left with a friend in case of emergency, arrived in Alexandra, notifying that his presence and certain articles were required. The time occupied was nine minutes, and the distance ten miles.

The Hospital World.

Edinburgh is anxious to know what is to become of the old fever hospital once the infirmary. The area covered by the hospital buildings in Infirmary Street is a large one, and the site is without doubt one of the most valuable in the city for many purposes. There is a strong probability that the buildings, which are of ancient date (some parts dating back to the eighteenth century), will be razed to the ground, as it is most unlikely that the premises which have so long sheltered fever cases will be occupied as they stand. If the Edinburgh Corporation offered the buildings and the site for sale or let, there is little doubt but that many people would be found ready to consider the offer. It is understood that the site is variously estimated at from £50,000 to £100,000. It was in 1721 that a pamphlet was issued in Edinburgh suggesting the erection of an institution for succouring the sick poor and homeless classes. Nothing was done for four years, when an appeal was made to raise £2,000 for the object. An application was made to the General Assembly to recommend a subscription in all the parishes under its jurisdiction, but Arnot records, to the disgrace of the clergy of that day, "ten out of eleven utterly disregarded it." Aid came from lay purses, and on August 6th, 1729, the Royal Infirmary was opened in a small house hired for the sick poor near the Old University. It was the first infirmary in the kingdom, and was pulled down when the South Bridge was built. In the year 1735, by a Royal Charter granted by George II. on August 25th, the contributors were incorporated with the object of erecting a building to accommodate 1,700 patients per annum, and two years later a commencement was made with the east wing of the present edifice, the foundation-stone being laid by George Mackenzie, the gallant Earl of Cromarty, who was then Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and afterwards distinguished himself by leading 400 of his clan at the battle of Falkirk. From that time the work of progression went on until the buildings formed three sides of a square, each portion being four storeys in height. The grounds around the houses were two acres in extent, and are still bounded on the south by the old city wall.

In 1743 and 1744 the sick soldiers of the regiments quartered in the Castle were accommodated in the infirmary, and in the stormy period of the '45 it was of necessity converted into a great military hospital for the sick and wounded troops of both armies engaged at Prestonpans and elsewhere. The managers soon found themselves called upon to entertain so many military patients that a guard had to be mounted on the house to enforce order, and liberty was obtained to deposit all dead patients in Lady Yester's Churchyard on the opposite side of the street. In 1768 the whole edifice narrowly escaped destruction, apparently not being provided with a lightning conductor. On July 30th of that year the south wing was furiously struck by lightning, many of the windows were destroyed, and the building much damaged, several of the patients feeling the shock. Three were struck down, two recovered, and one became delirious. It was to the old infirmary that Burke and Hare carried their victims, and sold the bodies to Dr. Knox and his assistants for £7 10s. each corpse. Part of the old infirmary build-

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