

in December last the total of £102,938 ls. 4d., but until the balance of this fund has been provided the Governors cannot look for an appreciable answer to their appeal for re-endowment.

**BIRMINGHAM'S NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.**—Among the many philanthropic institutions of which Birmingham is justly proud, the Hospital for Women occupies a prominent position. During the course of its thirty years' existence the hospital has been of incalculable benefit to thousands of women sufferers, who have received in it that skilled medical treatment and kindly nursing which have enabled them to continue their work in the world, and a new chapter in its history has opened with the laying of the foundation-stone by Mr. Arthur Chamberlain of the new hospital on a fine site situated in Showell Green Lane, Sparkhill, on ground previously occupied by a residence known as "Hazeldell." Though the fields in front of the new hospital may and doubtless will in time be covered with houses, yet there will always be a fine open space at the back of it, for the hospital grounds abut upon the Sparkhill Recreation Ground, which is, we understand, about 17 acres in extent. It has been made over to the Yardley District Council, by whom it will doubtless in time be laid out as a public park. Thus the hospital is assured of a free and copious supply of fresh air. Another advantage of the new situation is that being away from the main road it will be free from the noises incidental to the passage of heavy traffic.

**THE NATIONAL SANATORIUM, BOURNEMOUTH.**—The National Sanatorium, Bournemouth, has received donations of 50 guineas from the Goldsmiths and the Clothworkers Companies. It is satisfactory to learn that this excellent institution is enlarging its borders, and that important alterations are being carried out this summer, including an extension of the building and other important alterations and improvements which will include the provision of accommodation for twelve more patients, and better quarters for the nurses. On the urgent representation of the medical staff, six new beds are also being added. The Committee are issuing an appeal for £800 to complete the sum of £1,900 required to carry out the proposed extension, and we hope it will meet with a very liberal response.

**EARLSWOOD ASYLUM.**—Lord Rothschild, who presided at the Earlswood Asylum anniversary festival at the Hôtel Métropole, strongly commended that institution to the consideration of the generously disposed, particularly at the present moment, when the Board of Management is faced with a large and altogether unexpected outlay consequent on the foundations of a large portion of the building having shown signs of collapse. Expert advice has been taken on the matter, and the restoration work will, it is estimated, cost £30,000. In proposing the toast of the evening, Lord Rothschild claimed that Earlswood Asylum was a model institution, and said that now there was every reason why the public should be more generous than usual towards it. During the evening Mr. H. Howard (the secretary) read a list of subscriptions amounting to £4,311.

## Professional Review.

### REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF (SCOTLAND).

In July, 1902, a Departmental Committee was appointed, consisting of Mr. J. Patten MacDougall (member of the Board), Mr. W. Leslie Mackenzie, M.A., M.D. (Medical Inspector), Mr. R. B. Barclay (General Superintendent of the Poor), and Mr. J. Jeffrey (of the Local Government Board), who acted as Secretary.

The Committee were commissioned "to inquire into and report on the methods and conditions under which Poor Law Medical Relief is at present administered in Scotland, and on what changes, if any, it is advisable to make in regard thereto, or in the regulations for distributing the sum contributed from the Local Taxation Account to the cost of Poor Law Medical Relief and Trained Sick Nursing, or in the Rules and Regulations for the Management of Poorhouses." Their report, which has now been issued, contains several important recommendations and suggestions affecting nurses, and of interest to them.

#### THE INTRODUCTION OF TRAINED SICK NURSING.

We learn from the Report that in 1835, the Board, being desirous of abolishing, as far as possible, pauper nursing, and of encouraging the introduction of trained sick nursing in poorhouses, obtained the consent of the Secretary of State to the cost of such nursing being made a first charge against the grant of £10,000 to improve the supply of medical relief to the poor in Scotland, voted as part of Sir Robert Peel's scheme to relieve local rates, and subsequently (in 1882) increased to £20,000. Separate rules for the regulation of nursing in poorhouses were drawn up and formally approved, and each poorhouse authority that complied with them was to receive from the grant a sum equal to one-half of the actual salary of each trained sick nurse . . . together with an allowance of 3s. per week in respect of the cost of rations, lodgings, and uniform. The trained sick nursing grant is still distributed on these lines, and is a first charge on the grant of £20,000.

#### THE TRAINED SICK NURSING RULES.

It was Mr. McNeill, now Vice-President of the Local Government Board, who first directed attention to the disadvantages of Pauper Nursing, and advocated the introduction of trained nurses to poorhouses in a report made to the Board of Supervision in 1876, subsequently reverting to the subject from time to time. In 1879 he was instructed to visit a number of poorhouses and workhouses in England, and to inquire into the system of nursing in operation. In 1880 the Board issued regulations for the management of hospitals and infirmaries in poorhouses where a trained Head Nurse or Lady Superintendent was employed. The Matron of the poorhouse has no jurisdiction or authority within the hospital, and the position of the trained Head Nurse or Lady Superintendent of the hospital is the same in all respects, in relation to the Governor, as that of the Matron to the Governor as regards ordinary inmates. Her duties include the superintendence of nurses, suspending and reporting to the Governor any who may be found inferior, inefficient, or otherwise unsuitable, the

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