

of hygiene and the nature and effects of alcohol in all public elementary schools. This petition has aroused extraordinary interest in the medical profession, and has been signed by 14,718 members.

THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.—The newly-elected President of the Bristol Royal Infirmary—Sir George White—seems the right man in the right place, to judge from his sensible speech at a recent special meeting of the Governors. We are so used to the type of man as a hospital governor who fails to realise that, to qualify for the responsible work, study and comparison are required, that it is quite refreshing to read how Sir George looks at the matter.

In acknowledging a resolution and address of welcome from the medical staff and students, and addressing the Governors, Sir George White said:—"He was aware that he was not then competent to deal with the general position and situation of the infirmary. He had already explained to their Committee that he was somewhat of a novice in that class of work. They, however, assured him that that part of the difficulty would in due time be overcome, and he was doing his best at the present time to learn all he possibly could about the management of institutions of this character. He had reported to the Committee that he had visited all the better hospitals and infirmaries in London, and that he was now taking an opportunity of visiting all the best institutions of the kind in the provinces, so that he might be better able to take his place amongst their councillors—the Committee of the infirmary. He was bound to say that the Committee recognised that, although the institution was in a high state of efficiency, yet there were many advantages enjoyed by other infirmaries and hospitals which they would be only too happy to see extended to their institution. In their medical staff they had a body of self-denying men, whose professional reputation stood out amongst the best in the land, and in their nursing staff they had a band of devoted women who had consecrated their lives to the noble work. Surely then it was their duty as Governors to see that the institution was equipped with every appliance and apparatus which modern science could suggest and produce. At the same time, after these essentials had been provided they must do their best to keep the infirmary and its surroundings up to modern practice, so that they might add materially to the happiness of the patients to whose wants and painful necessities they ministered. If as Governors they kept before them such ideals, he was inclined to think they would be carrying on the best traditions of the Bristol Royal Infirmary."

A STRENUOUS EFFORT REQUIRED.—A strenuous effort is to be made to complete the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, to accomplish which a sum of about £6,000 is still required. Towards the building the sum of £32,000 has already been subscribed, and hopes are expressed that the edifice may be completed by midsummer of 1905. In this connection the Committee are greatly encouraged by an offer they have just received of £1,000 from an anonymous donor. This offer is conditional, the stipulation being that immediate efforts shall be made to raise the additional capital required.

An Historic Day at Bart's.

On Wednesday last, a day of glorious sunshine, King Edward the Seventh, accompanied by the Queen, came into the heart of the City of London to lay the foundation-stone of the new buildings of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It was a stirring and magnificent sight, and nothing could have been more brilliant than the scene inside the monster pavilion as the King and Queen, followed by the Prince and Princess of Wales, appeared on the platform. The marquee, to hold 3,000 visitors, was erected on the piece of ground where by-and-by the fine new building containing the out-patients and casualty departments and various annexes will arise. Lined with pale green and white, upholstered in crimson, and lavishly decorated with flowers, the ladies in lovely summer gowns of every shade, the men in bright academic gowns and uniforms, the scene was a dream of beauty, and stirred to the heart those who have worked for and loved this splendid and historic hospital. The King, in a gorgeous uniform, beamed upon the happy throng, and the Queen, exquisitely dressed in a sheeny, simply-made, peach-tinted gown, embroidered with pearls, received a tremendous ovation.

The ceremony opened with prayer offered by the Bishop of London, and, after a brief pause, the Prince of Wales stepped forward and read, in his capacity of President of the hospital, in excellent style, an address to the King, in which the circumstances were recounted under which the reconstruction of the hospital has been declared to be necessary.

To this His Majesty replied in hearty terms, his resonant voice carrying easily to the furthest corners of the pavilion. He said:—

"The Queen and I have great pleasure in being present to-day to lay the foundation-stone of the new building of this famous hospital, and we thank you heartily for the loyal address which our dear son, as President, has presented on behalf of the governing body.

"You have reminded us of the antiquity of this foundation and of the favour shown to it by many of our Royal predecessors. I recollect the lively satisfaction which I felt in holding the Presidency of this hospital for so many years, and I shall continue to take the deepest personal interest in its work and fortunes.

"We are happy to see that those who are responsible for carrying on the excellent work have shown by their scheme for rebuilding the hospital their intention that the future of St. Bartholomew's shall not be unworthy of its fine traditions.

"The names of the famous men educated here prove that an institution of this kind is not merely a refuge for the suffering, but a school for the advancement of the science and practice of medicine, and in this way the influence of this and other great hospitals of this country extends beyond merely local limits to foreign countries, and to the Colonies and dependencies of our Empire.

"We confidently believe that our subjects, and especially the citizens of London, will not fail to show interest in the progress of the scheme for the rebuilding of the hospital, nor allow that beneficent undertaking to be hindered by want of the necessary funds."

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