

evidence of the wide-spread area of the institution's usefulness, it may be stated that nearly two-thirds of the in-patients come from different parts of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, London and the suburbs accounting for the remaining third.

**AN INDISPENSABLE CHARITY.**—By leaflets which have recently been circulated it will be seen that the Committee of the Bath Royal United Hospital are making an appeal for financial assistance towards the extinction of a debt, amounting to nearly £4,000, with which the hospital is at present burdened and has been for several years past. The leaflet sets forth an extremely strong case why this institution should be maintained on a sound financial basis. Founded in 1826, at which time the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary and the Bath Casualty Hospital were amalgamated—hence the name, Royal United Hospital—the institution has done noble work. Its aid has come to thousands in the time of their direst need, and has assisted in medical and surgical cases in a manner which is most praiseworthy. The hospital contains 140 beds, including a special ward for children, and it has been hinted at more than one annual meeting that unless the present debt is cleared off, and the annual income considerably augmented, there will only be one course open to the Committee—namely, to close some of the wards. It is needless to point out that this would be a most lamentable step to take, and would entail increased suffering on many who look to the Bath Royal United Hospital in the hour of their affliction.

**OPENING OF THE CITY HOSPITALS, SEACROFT.**—On Thursday the inhabitants of Leeds were formally placed in possession of the splendid new infectious diseases hospitals at Seacroft. Nobody could imagine the transformation wrought on the Manston Hall estate, since the Sanitary Committee took in hand the task of making adequate provision for the fever cases of the city. On the Killingbeck site, also, they have erected a modern up-to-date small-pox hospital. These institutions were opened by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. A. Currer Briggs) on Thursday afternoon, and many medical officers and sanitary officials were present from several of the leading towns in the kingdom.

Manston Hall estate is about ninety acres in extent, and some forty acres of it are covered with hospital buildings. Constructed on the pavilion principle, they are properly isolated from each other, and connected with covered ways half open at the sides. One of these covered ways is a quarter of a mile long, a sort of main artery, and beneath it is a subway for carrying pipes and electric wires. Accommodation is made for 240 scarlet fever patients, 60 diphtheria, 104 enteric, and 48 isolated cases—total, 452. This provision is rather in excess of the rule of allowing one bed per 1,000 of the population, and it is a provision which can be expanded in case of any far-reaching epidemic. There are in all 42 buildings, embracing accommodation for a staff of 102 nurses and 72 female servants, besides quarters for the medical staff, and for the Matron and her assistants. The small-pox hospital will house in the large pavilions 90 patients, and 14 isolated cases can be dealt with at the same time. Exact details of the cost of the new hospitals are not yet available; but the main contract was for £198,000, and foundation work costs nearly £18,000.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### NOTES FROM A NURSE'S NOTE-BOOK IN CENTRAL ASIA.

DEAR EDITOR,—May I give you a few more notes from my note-book? After the great flood we could



do no work in hospital, as the whole place for weeks was most unhealthy from mud, &c., and no patients were coming; to sit still was impossible. One

day our doctor said, "What shall we do?" One of our party said, "It is about the time the Hindoos from all over India make their pilgrimage to Amarnath; let us go and attend any case of sickness on the way." We all agreed to start that day if we could get ready in time. Servants were told to pack up tents, &c., for three weeks' camping out. The doctor went off to a friend who had done the journey, and she came back in despair, saying that it was not at all a fit journey for Englishwomen to take; there were so many stiff climbs over rocky roads. Someone made the remark, "If those poor sick women can do it in hope of a cure, we must be poor things if we cannot do as much as they." So it was decided we should start; we could but turn back if we found it so very difficult.

The first day we rode, and camped at Pampur under some beautiful trees. The next day we reached Islamabad, where our servants took in a goodly supply of food.

Now we began our march up the Lidar Valley. This is the finest valley in the Himalayas, I think. The river takes its origin, I was told, in large glaciers, and comes bounding down by many a rapid and between huge rocks.

We camped three days at Eishmakam, and saw over 100 patients. I visited many in their homes, which to me is always most delightful work. Eishmakam is a great Mussulman stronghold; it is most famous for its great saint, Zyn-ud-din. We wanted very much to see his tomb and to hear all about him. This is the story as they told it to me. Zyn-ud-din was the friend and disciple of the great saint Nur-ur-din, and they were quite without religion in the one true God until Zyn-ud-din came to them and told them they must not worship idols. Some laughed at him, some believed him. He told them that some day they would believe in what he said, for he said, "Now, all you, look at this staff; when God takes me up to heaven you will find this staff, but never my body." He lived many years among them, would take no money for his work; and only ate the plainest food that was given him. He would never sleep in a house, only in a cave in winter, and under the trees in summer. One day the old saint did not call through their streets "God is great; there is but one God; repent, repent you of your sins," &c. So all the people asked where was Zyn-ud-din. No one knew. But a long time after they found his staff at the mouth of a small cave, but never his body. So they took the staff into the cave and built a most beautiful shrine. They say that was between four and five hundreds of years ago, and

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