

A Creditable Record.

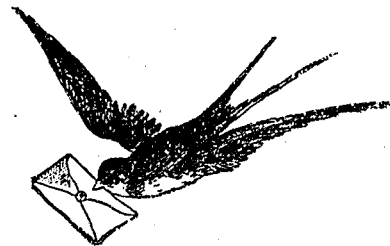
The Classified Directory to the Metropolitan Charities gives its usual page of figures regarding the receipts of the various organisations last year. The approximate receipts for 1903-4 were:—

| Income not given. | Income given. | £ | £ |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|
| 1... 3 | Bible Societies ... | 342,640 | |
| 3... 9 | Book and Tract Societies ... | 82,601 | 425,241 |
| 5... 60 | Home Missions ... | 887,082 | |
| 1... 14 | Home and Foreign Missions ... | 468,786 | |
| 1... 25 | Foreign Missions ... | 1,343,219 | 2,699,087 |
| 2... 4 | Church and Chapel Building Funds ... | — | 19,765 |
| 3... 24 | Charities for the Blind ... | 89,545 | |
| 1... 6 | Charities for Deaf and Dumb ... | 14,071 | |
| 1... 5 | Charities for Incurables ... | 55,732 | |
| 1... 3 | Charities for Idiots, &c. ... | 64,725 | 224,073 |
| 19 | General Hospitals ... | 673,686 | |
| 8 | Consumption Hospitals, &c. ... | 62,276 | |
| 5 | Ophthalmic Hospitals, &c. ... | 22,857 | |
| 3 | Orthopaedic Hospitals, &c. ... | 9,242 | |
| 6 | Skin Hospitals, &c. ... | 9,632 | |
| 3... 16 | Hospitals for Women and Children ... | 88,565 | |
| 1... 5 | Lying-in Hospitals, &c. ... | 14,860 | |
| 1... 27 | Miscell. Special Hospitals, &c. ... | 136,578 | |
| 28 | General Dispensaries... .. | 26,688 | |
| 11 | Provident Dispensaries ... | 17,839 | |
| 2... 6 | Institutions for Surg. Appliances ... | 47,251 | |
| 29... 23 | Convalescent Institutions ... | 81,287 | |
| 9... 6 | Nursing Institutions ... | 18,833 | 1,209,594 |
| 26... 92 | Pensions and Institutions for the Aged ... | — | 610,390 |
| 13... 75 | Institutions for General Relief (exclu. Mansion House Funds) ... | 436,726 | |
| 14 | Food Institutions, &c. ... | 20,564 | |
| 25... 45 | Voluntary Homes ... | — | 457,290 |
| 10... 41 | Orphanages, &c. ... | — | 233,933 |
| 25... 39 | Institutions for Reformation and Prevention ... | — | 191,694 |
| 22... 58 | Institutions for Education ... | — | 68,999 |
| 29... 23 | Institutions for Social Improvement ... | — | 566,417 |
| 2... 21 | Institutions for Protection ... | — | 135,035 |
| 216 | 724 Income given. | — | 246,461 |
| 216 | Income not given. | — | |
| 940* | Grand totals | ... *£7,087,979 | |

Our Foreign Letter.

A RUSSIAN HOSPITAL SHIP.

DEAR MADAM,—It may interest your readers to know that Cape Town has recently had an excitement



in the arrival of a portion of the Baltic Fleet. For nurses the special interest was, of course, the hospital ship, the *Oreal*. She is a handsome vessel, white above the

water-line, with a band of red running round the bulwarks. She came into Table Bay flying the Russian and Red Cross flags from her masthead. The ship is the gift of the Russian Minister of Marine to the National Red Cross Society, and her equipment was supplied conjointly by the Russian and French Red Cross Societies. A number of prominent French ladies took an active interest in the work of raising the funds.

The medical officer in charge is Dr. Moultanofsky, and the hospital staff numbers eighty in all, medical men, nurses, hospital assistants, and attendants, the nursing staff being composed of twenty Sisters of Mercy, all, with the exception of one French lady, being of Russian nationality.

Of course, I took an early opportunity of paying a visit to the ship with a friend. We were well received by Mme. Olga Yourieff, a volunteer Sister, the only lady on board who could speak English, and we were courteously taken over the ship by one of the doctors. The arrangements were very up to date, and as spick and span as could be found in a land hospital, and the whole ship a picture of cleanliness. I was much fascinated by the lift for receiving patients from the boats. The first halt is at the dressing-room, where the patient is prepared for operation or for reception in the wards, as the case may be. If the case is an operation one the lift conveys the patient to the operating theatre till it reaches the level of the operating table, to which the patient is transferred. It then descends again to the floor level, of which it forms a part. Everything fitted most beautifully. Close to the theatre were X-ray and sterilising chambers, and, further, small sterilisers seem to be placed wherever they can possibly be needed, and with the turn of a screw are in working order. The wards were on much the same plan as those in ordinary hospitals, except that the beds could be unfixed, so that they could swing with the movement of the vessel if need be. Thus, whatever be the motion of the ship, these beds remain almost perfectly steady. They are used where steadiness is essential to the patient's recovery. The mattresses could all be used as lifebuoys if necessary, and most things seemed capable of adoption for diverse uses as might be necessary. The arrangements of the kitchens seemed to be as perfect as possible. After our tour of inspection we were invited to drink tea prepared in Russian fashion. It was delicious, as were also the sweets which were handed round.

None of the Sisters could speak English, and most of the conversation had to be in French, and they

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