

monastic relic of the Twelfth Century, will be shown and its history explained on two Saturday afternoons this month, the 18th and the 26th, at three o'clock. The relations of the Priory with St. Bartholomew's Hospital in pre-Reformation times will also be explained. The crypt and other portions of the building will be thrown open without any fee, but a collection will be made for the restoration of the cloister.

In his annual report, just issued, the Medical Officer of Health for Tottenham (Dr. Butler-Hogan) makes some strong remarks with regard to the boy and girl marriages which, he says, are so common in the district. He states that these contribute largely to the infantile death-rate as well as to the poverty of certain quarters of Tottenham. It appeared to him that the Red Indian was not such a fool as many of his brethren in English towns. He chose a woman for his squaw who could cook his food, suckle his children, make his mocassins, and even repair his wigwam. The wretched lad of our towns married a tawdry slut, who could, as a rule, do none of these things, or what corresponded to them in civilised society. The savage of the prairie was truer to the animal; the savage of the pavement falsier to the man. It was from the latter class that those children proceeded who were "bold, pert, and dirty as a London sparrow," who were precocious in all the "smart" vices of a new century, who cheeked the "governor," who despised or ignored "the old woman," who tolerated their teachers, who abhorred their superiors, and who, in a word, were hopelessly wanting in the old-fashioned virtues of truth, courtesy, and reverence.

The number of in-patients admitted last year to the General Hospital, Birmingham, was 5,229; the daily average of patients in the hospital was 275½. Of the in-patients admitted, 1,030 were children under twelve years of age, of whom 226 were under two years. The out-patients were 61,362. The number of operations performed, many of them of a most serious and important character, continues to increase.

The Sussex County Hospital at Brighton is, we regret to hear, sadly in want of funds. There is an overdraft of £7,727 16s. 6d., which must be paid off, and a further increase of £2,000 is required in subscriptions if the work of this hospital is to be maintained at its present high standard. We trust that some public effort will be made to relieve the hospital from the incubus of debt and ensure it a sounder financial future.

At the annual meeting in connection with the Torbay Hospital recently it was stated that the institution possesses in Master Edward Ball, aged three, the youngest hospital governor in the country. He has been a governor since his birth.

Colonel Warburton, M.D., C.S.I., Medical Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, kindly informs us that his remarks in the Report to which we referred last week were not intended as a criticism on the note in the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, but of the statement attributed to Mr. Morris, which he considered was wanting in correctness, as far as the Royal Infirmary was concerned.

In a comparison between the expenses of that institution and the London Hospital, Colonel Warburton gives the following interesting statistics:—

Meat in 1904 cost us a fraction over 6½d. per lb. for home-fed Scottish beef and mutton, as compared with 4½d. or 5d. per lb. for foreign or colonial meat in the London Hospital. With us the difference of ½d. per lb. in 1904 meant £194 6s. 2d. for the year, so that if we could have purchased our meat at 5d. instead of 6½d. there would have been a saving of £1,165 17s. For milk we paid 10½d. per gallon in 1904, against 8½d. paid by the London Hospital. The difference of ½d. per gallon in 1904 was equal to £80 18s. 9d. for the year, so that if we could have purchased it at 8½d. we should have saved £485 12s. 6d. We give our patients tea, coffee, sugar, and butter; the London Hospital does not. The above-named six articles represent £11,152 1s. 2d., or 69 per cent. of the £16,157 13s. 5d. of our food expenditure in 1904, while poultry, fish, and eggs form an additional 14 per cent. On four days of the week patients who can eat it get roast meat (beef or mutton). On the other three days the meat is boiled, but the quantity issued is the same as on roast-meat days, and the fact that it is converted into Scotch broth means that there is a bigger equivalent of nourishment on those days. The cost of provisions per bed in the London Hospital was £31 5s. for 1903. In the Royal Infirmary for the same year it was £20 11s. 8½d., and in 1904 it was £19 16s. 3d. I may here mention that our diet scale was made up and approved of by a committee of medical men, and that economy has been practised without in any way affecting efficiency. In 1904 we paid £273 5s. 7d. on account of pensions. The wages of our window-cleaning staff amounted to £226 12s. 8d. In 1901 we paid £365 4s. for window-cleaning. The reduction is due to improved methods in working. We give medicines to all our in-patients and supply dressings to all our surgical out-patients, who form 78 per cent. of the out-patients treated in this hospital in 1904. He concludes, if investigations into the management of hospitals are considered necessary for the purpose of comparison I venture to suggest that they should be made by independent parties, who by comparing each item of expenditure in a number of hospitals would be in a position to judge where economies can be effected.

The number of pilgrims that assembled at Mecca and Medina during 1904 was 92,500, a number which is said not to have been reached for forty years past. It is computed that 9,000 to 10,000 did not return home, and that of these 4,000 to 5,000 died of various diseases. No epidemic occurred. 17,942 came from India and Afghanistan.

American Army surgeons, says the *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*, have discovered that the vermiform appendix, probably the best abused part of the human body, can actually be made instrumental in repelling disease, and a case of tropical dysentery has been cured by its means. Can there be some reason in Nature, after all?

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Bullock, President of the North Staffordshire Infirmary. Mr. Bullock was a borough magistrate for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and a justice of the peace for Staffordshire and Cheshire.

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