

An anonymous donor has defrayed the cost—upwards of £500—of a second operating theatre at the General Hospital, Bristol, rendered necessary by the great increase in the number of surgical cases.

Miss Catherine Last, the executrix of the will of her sister, the late Miss Elizabeth Last has handed over to the Treasurer of the Braintree and Bocking Cottage Hospital the legacy of £500 left to that institution by reversion consequent upon the death of her nephew, the late Mr. John Humphrey Last.

After the business of the last monthly meeting of the Board of Governors of the Incorporated Dental Hospital of Ireland, Dublin, was concluded, the chairman and governors, together with the members of the dental and anæsthetic staff, adjourned to the apartments of the Lady Superintendent for the purpose of presenting a token of their regard and esteem to the Registrar (Mr. William Askin Shea) and Mrs. Shea, on the occasion of their golden wedding.—The Chairman, Mr. William C. Stubbs, M.A., presided, and the Dean of the school, Dr. A. W. W. Baker, most kindly referred to the services of the Registrar over a period of twenty-five years amongst them, and presented, on behalf of the staff and other friends, a valuable solid silver salver, by Messrs. West and Son, College Green, the following inscription being engraved upon it:—"To William A. Shea, J.P., on the occasion of his golden wedding, from his friends at the Incorporated Dental Hospital of Ireland, Feb. 7, 1905." The Chairman made the presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Shea, with the congratulations of all their friends, and Mr. Shea expressed on behalf of his wife and himself their sincere thanks, not only for the magnificent gift, but for the goodness of heart that prompted the feelings which had been shown towards them in such a marked manner.—Amongst those present who had received invitations from the Lady Superintendent (Mrs. Manning) were Miss Huxley, President of the Irish Nurses' Association, the Dean, Dr. Arthur Baker, and Dr. Cronyn, as well as near relatives of the guests of honour.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis, or "spotted fever," in epidemic form is reported to exist in New York and several other cities, 346 cases having occurred in New York alone since the beginning of the year. The city's Board of Health has asked for extra funds to investigate and fight the disease. According to the *Daily Mail's* New York correspondent one of the latest victims of the dread malady is Dr. Craig, a well-known Philadelphia physician, connected with the Jefferson Hospital, who died last week in great agony. As the malady progressed the dying physician gave a technical description of the symptoms to his colleagues. Immediately after his death, the six doctors who had attended him and two women nurses isolated themselves in their rooms to prevent the possible spread of the contagion.

The extent to which plague is now raging in India may be understood from the fact that the deaths amount to 35,000 weekly, and that number is increasing. The worst centres of infection are the United Provinces and the Punjab.

Our Foreign Letter.

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

We have received an interesting picture of a Kashmiri child with a kangie, or fire basket, in her hand, and the following note will show how this basket is used, and the danger which is incurred thereby. "The people only wear one garment, like a



night-dress, always open at the neck. They carry the kangie (which is lined with an earthen pot) underneath the garment for warmth, and burn in it cow dung, leaves, and charcoal all mixed together. The little girl was very badly burned, as she took her kangie to bed with her, and it was upset and set her bedding on fire. Her parents did not take her to the hospital for treatment, with the result that as the burns healed the leg became contracted, so that eventually her heel was drawn up to her thigh. Dr. Huntley operated, and now she is able to walk nicely, although the foot is very much deformed. That was ten years ago, now she is the mother of two dear little children. The kangie dates back about 500 years. When Akbar conquered the country he forbade fires and warm clothes. Food had to be cooked at night and eaten cold in the morning. It was then that the kangie was invented, and the people secreted it under their one garment in order to keep themselves warm during the very severe cold winter weather, and they have kept up the custom to the present day. I think they would rather go without a meal than without their kangie. There is not a man, woman, or child without a kangie mark on abdomen or legs. Many, especially the old people, get a kind of skin cancer from the constant burns, which are very difficult to heal. Often they have to undergo operation for epithelioma. They get deep sores with hard ridges, which never heal unless operated on. The granular eyelids which we get here from the smoke and dirt are dreadful. The houses have open grates and no chimneys, so the rooms are filled with smoke. Many live, cook, and sleep all in the one room—mother, father, and six or seven children.

"I am so sorry for some of these people in the high caste houses. If I were younger and had the ability, I would come home and qualify as a doctor, and then come back again. As it is, I do the best I can."

"Perhaps some of my sisters would like to hear how forgiving these poor people are. A poor beggar woman, who was quite blind, came to the dispensary asking for something for a headache. I asked her how she came to be blind, and so scarred about the face. She said, 'Oh, that was done long ago, my husband got angry with me and threw the hot kangie in my face. The kangie broke and a piece of the pottery work broke and stuck in my forehead and my face was all burnt. I was taken to the Mission Hospital and the doctor there removed the pottery, but my eyes

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)