

The Hospital World.

PROTECTORS OF THE POOR.

There are few more honourable honorary posts than those held by the Chairmen and Treasurers of our great hospitals, entailing, as they do, a large amount of work, the possession of business capacity, of social qualities, and of real sympathy for the poor which are received within the walls of these institutions. The changes which have taken place in our hospitals during the last half century are so great as to amount almost to a revolution, and it is of great interest to know something of the men who have been at the helm while these changes have been in progress.

To consider the last quartette of Treasurers of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, the late Mr. Foster White, whose portrait hangs in the Great Hall of the hospital, and his successor, Sir Sidney Waterlow, are typical of the successful City magnate — the men who, having wrested their fortune from fate, devote their great business capacities and their wealth to the benefit of the poor of the city in which their fortunes were made. In the time when Mr. Foster White occupied the Treasurer's position of St. Bartholomew's, the conditions were well-nigh mediæval, and when the gates were shut it would have been easy to fancy oneself back again in mediæval times. Then came Sir Sidney Waterlow, and it was in 1877, during his tenure of office, that its nursing school was founded, educated and refined women entered its wards, and, during the ten years

which followed, the standard of comfort of the sick, of the quality of the nursing care bestowed upon them, and of the tone throughout the hospital were so raised, that it is necessary to have lived through that period to understand what the advent of these women, first as probationers and nurses, and afterwards in the case of some of them as Sisters, meant to the hospital, or how potent was their influence for good. The honour of introducing this reform movement must always be associated with the name of Sir Sydney Waterlow,

whose portrait also adorns the Great Hall of the hospital, the business of which for so many years he conducted with such great capacity and sound common-sense.

The next Treasurer, Sir Trevor Lawrence, was of an altogether different type. Wealthy, charming, and possessed of the artistic temperament, as no one could for a moment doubt who knows his exquisite collection of English porcelain, including specimens of the rarest scale blue and other Worcester, and who is also a successful cultivator of rare orchids. Those who saw him present a basket of choice specimens of his favourite flowers to the Queen when she visited the hospital last year, could have no doubt that had he presented Her Majesty with the latest Premier diamond he would have offered a gift in his estimation infinitely

less precious. It must surely have been a sense of public duty which made Sir Trevor Lawrence undertake the office of Treasurer of a great hospital, for to a man of his temperament there are so many delightful distractions.

Of late years, a new type of Hospital Chairman



LORD LUDLOW.

The New Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

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