

The Hospital World.

A SHORT NOTE CONCERNING WORKINGTON INFIRMARY.

By MISS MARY C. FAIR.

Workington is a small seaport town on the Solway; it has extensive iron and steel works and coalpits. It has as well a remarkably efficient and well-managed hospital of thirty beds (the report of which I have before me), and to which I paid a visit a week or two ago, being greatly struck by a general air of smartness and efficiency only too rare in institutions of this size.

This infirmary is supported by voluntary contributions; it was one of (if not *the*) first hospitals to institute the collection of contributions amongst the working men who form its principal patients, and the working men of Workington should form a source of pride to that town, and an object lesson and example to those of other places, for last year their subscriptions to the hospital came to no less than £1,135 16s. 6d.

The total expenditure for 1905 was £1,368 0s. 4d., the financial position of the institution being thus in an exceedingly flourishing condition. The number of patients treated during 1905 numbered 191, the average number of cases in hospital throughout the year being 21'690. Fifty-nine of these cases were accidents. The hospital is built on one floor, and the wards are bright and cheery with ample air space. There are four, two for men, one for women, and a delightful children's ward. There is, too, a nice operating theatre, with up-to-date sterilisers, table, &c.

There are no probationers at this hospital, which is as it should be in an institution of this size, all the nurses being graduates. They are three in number, two on day duty, one on night, under the charge of a matron, Miss Winter. The record of the cases and the low cost per head of working expenses speak for themselves as to this lady's skill both as a superintendent of nursing and as an administrator of hospital domestic economy. Her responsibilities must be great for there is no house surgeon, but it is quite evident that she is quite equal to whatever may be the emergencies with which she has to deal, and she is well supported by her committee and the medical officers of this excellent institution.

It may be of interest to those who have always worked in a large hospital to know something of the organisation of the smaller institutions which are doing good work throughout the country.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Many hospitals benefit substantially under the will of the late Mr. F. J. Horniman, F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., F.L.S., Chairman of Messrs. W. H. and F. J. Horniman and Co., Ltd. He bequeathed £1,000 each to the London Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, the Sussex County Hospital, the Croydon General Hospital, the Convalescent Home and Hospital, Lower Sydenham, S.E., the Surgical Aid Society, the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, and the General Hospital, Truro; and £500 each to the Cornwall Convalescent Home for Men at Perranporth and the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro.

Lord Ludlow, the treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, acknowledges the receipt of £2,000 as the result of the recent appeal to the Stock Exchange on behalf of the rebuilding fund. This is in addition to upwards of £1,600 previously subscribed by members of the Exchange.

In moving the adoption of the report of the annual meeting of governors of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, the Chairman, Sir George Truscott, expressed much regret at the fact that 24 beds still remained closed for lack of the necessary funds, and informed the meeting that since the hospital was opened, 58 years ago, 40,000 in-patients had been treated there, while the out-patients had numbered nearly three-quarters of a million.

For the benefit of the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women a Bridge Tournament will be played at the Old Oak Tea House, 37, New Bond Street, W., which has been kindly lent by the proprietress, on the 24th and 25th of April and following days, if necessary. The fee for admission is 10s. 6d. for each day, and play will commence punctually at 8.45 p.m. Twenty or more handsome prizes will be given. All the receipts will be given to the Hospital. Those willing to take tickets, or to help the committee in any other way, are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the Bridge Tournament Committee at the Old Oak Tea House, 37, New Bond Street, W.

The uses to which the Röntgen Ray may be put appear to be inexhaustible. It is now thought possible that owing to the discovery of a Washington professor the octave above the ultra-violet ray may be used to detect the approach, or actual fact of death, and also that by the employment of the ultra violet ray the possibility of burial alive would be obviated, as by this means the existence of any circulating electrical energy, and therefore of life, could be ascertained.

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