

dous work. He felt that the task was almost greater than they could be expected to bear. Beside the provision of doctor's medicine, he thought what was needed was kitchen medicine—invalid's food when sick, and good strengthening food when people were convalescent. He thought the soup and invalid kitchen if it was better known would be better supported. Let them think what it would mean to the nurses and doctors if there was an institution to which they could go to have their needs supplied in that direction.

SELF-SUPPORTING NURSING HOMES.

The British Medical Association has been enjoying its Annual Meeting during the week at Sheffield, and an important document dealing with the administration and management of hospitals was presented to the Representative Meeting by Dr. Pope, of Leicester. It dealt with (1) Hospitals in General, (2) Cottage Hospitals, (3) Self-supporting Public Nursing Homes.

The proposals for the latter took the following form:—

1. Definition and Desirability.—That it is desirable that self-supporting public nursing homes should be established for patients who, being ineligible for the voluntary hospitals, are yet unable to pay the customary professional fees as well as the charges usually made in private nursing homes.
2. Management.—That the management should be vested in a local committee, on which the medical profession is adequately represented.
3. Certificates of Suitability for Admission.—That no patient should be admitted without first producing a certificate of suitability for admission from a medical practitioner, who should, whenever possible, be the patient's usual medical attendant. If the signatory be not the patient's usual medical attendant, an explanation of the fact should be appended to the certificate.
4. Choice of Medical Attendant.—That it shall be open to a patient to select any registered medical practitioner as his attendant.
5. Assistance to Patients unable to Pay Entire Cost.—That when the payment made by a patient is insufficient to cover the entire cost of maintenance, or when any question arises as to reduction or remission of fees for professional services, a statement of the financial circumstances necessitating such consideration shall be signed by the patient or near relative, countersigned by the usual medical attendant or some other responsible householder, and submitted to the committee.

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

His Majesty the King has personally conferred the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross on:

Miss Ethel Martin, Matron, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Miss E. A. Wildman, Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service for India.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Committee of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital has resolved, in face of urgent representations, that the serious step of closing thirty beds shall not be taken yet, but if adequate support is not forthcoming before the end of the year the thirty beds will have to be closed on the 1st of January next.

It has been announced that a certain number of beds have been provided at the Brompton Hospital for Consumption Sanatorium at Frimley for paying patients at 25s. a week. Some are already occupied. Remarkable success attends the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis at this Sanatorium. At a recent view day large numbers of patients who had been discharged cured visited the institution.

Lord Cawdor, the Treasurer of the London Homoeopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, W.C., has received a legacy of £1,000 from the estate of the late Mrs. George Fielder for the endowment of a bed in the new extension, to be called the "Julia Bed."

Dr. A. C. Houston, Director of Water Examinations to the Metropolitan Water Board, states, in a report recently presented to the Board, that it is possible, by certain comparatively easy tests, to show that under storage a change has occurred in river water, which could, in all probability, only have resulted from sustained storage, and that this change is associated with relative (perhaps even absolute) safety of the water so far as the typhoid bacillus is concerned.

The building operations in connection with the extension of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, are almost completed, and it is expected that the new block will be formally opened in October next. Including the improvements in the pathological department and the laundry, which were carried out a year or two ago, and the extension of the Nurses' Home, which was finished last September, the entire scheme has cost about £40,000. The Nurses' Home now contains sleeping accommodation for 70 nurses, as compared with 33 last year. A terrace and tennis courts for the nurses are to be provided.

Mr. Charles Tuckfield has been elected to succeed Dr. Brook as Chairman of the Swansea Hospital Board of Management.

Nurses who owe so much to intercourse with their colleagues in the United States will be glad to know that in October next the reform in the postal rates to America will come into force. A letter which now costs 10d. to go to America will, in and after October, cost only 2d., and the letter which now costs 2½d. will go for 1d.

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