

was as old as civilisation, and yet quite new in some of its developments. The great names of Art, Science, and Literature had been prostituted to the service of this vice. On the motion of Mr. Arthur Spurgeon, a resolution was carried unanimously, pledging the meeting to warmly support the Government in carrying out the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Lotteries and Indecent Advertisements, and calling upon the administrators of the present law more stringently to enforce it, and on the better class Press and publishers to unite in breaking up the traffic in indecent literature. The Rev. F. B. Meyer, in seconding, said that weeklies of the character aimed at in the resolution at were distributed on bookstalls and in the smaller bookshops to the extent of 500,000 a week. Another unanimous resolution, moved by the Archdeacon of London, declared that the time was fully ripe for more energetic action on the part of all religious, social, and philanthropic communities to raise the standard of social and personal purity.

At a recent meeting of a Special Court of Governors of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, a recommendation of the Board of Management was considered, to raise the necessary money for, and to proceed at once with, the proposed enlargement of the hospital. The scheme, which, it is estimated, will cost £20,000, provides for increased accommodation in the out-patients' departments, an extension of the waiting-hall, and the erection of a new dispensary and suites of rooms for physicians and surgeons. The president said that the accommodation had long been inadequate. The Board had received an offer of £1,000 from an anonymous friend on condition that the work was begun before the next annual Court of Governors, in February. The plans submitted were approved, and it was resolved to make an earnest effort to raise a sufficient sum to enable the work to be begun in time to secure the £1,000 offered. The invested funds of the Hospital amount to £52,000, and in respect of £41,000 of this sum the interest only is available for the expenses of the Hospital, but the remaining £11,000 could be devoted towards the extension scheme if the Governors so decided.

The members of the Manchester Royal Infirmary Board have held their last meeting at the old institution. Mr. W. Cobbett, the Chairman, presided, and the occasion was taken by his colleagues to thank him for the excellent manner in which he had carried out the duties of his office since his appointment. In the minutes relating to the proceedings of the Chaplaincy Committee, it was mentioned that the Bishop of Manchester (Dr. Knox) had been asked to dedicate the chapel at the new infirmary early next month; and that Bibles would be provided for each patient, together with a certain number of Prayer Books. Since the last meeting £3,895 had been received towards the Building Fund.

The Governors of the Hertford General Infirmary have decided to change the name of the institution to the Hertford County Hospital.

## Professional Review.

### A TEXT BOOK ON DISEASES OF THE EAR.

The ear and its diseases are subjects with which the majority of nurses are so little acquainted that those who have the opportunity of reading the above text-book, by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., published by Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner, and Co., Ltd., Dryden House, 43, Gerrard Street, Soho, London, W., should certainly do so. The published price is 18s., and the book contains many admirable illustrations.

Mr. Yearsley is senior surgeon to the Royal Ear Hospital, Soho, Medical Inspector to London County Council Deaf Schools, Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology to the Training College for Teachers of the Deaf, Ealing, and Membre Correspondent de la Société Française d'Otologie. He is well known to the readers of this Journal as a contributor of some interesting articles to its columns on "The Nursing of Diseases of the Ear" and other subjects.

### ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

In a most interesting chapter on the anatomy and physiology of the ear, the author says that "the whole mechanism of hearing is of profound interest, and contains many a problem, the secret of which has yet to be discovered. It is possible that a careful study of the *evolution* of the sense may help us to the elucidation of some of them."

This chapter concludes with a few words on "the subject of *bi-lateral hearing*, the necessity for which has been ably demonstrated by Raugé. Just as binocular vision enables us to judge of the "ocular relief" of objects, and monocular vision makes them appear to us to be in the same plane, so binocular hearing gives to sounds an "auditory relief." By means of ocular relief we are better able to judge of the position of objects in space, and auditory relief similarly helps us to estimate the position of a source of sound in space, or, in other words, enables us to perceive where such source is situated. This fact is supported by clinical and experimental evidence."

### CLINICAL INVESTIGATION.

In the chapter on clinical investigation the author emphasises two points, the latter of which should be borne in mind by nurses in relation to their work — viz., "There are two golden rules which should never be lost sight of—*system and gentleness*. It is only by the former that a reliable and definite diagnosis can be made, while, by the cultivation of a gentleness of manipulation the patient is put at ease, his confidence gained, and the surgeon does not defeat his own ends by unnecessary roughness."

"There are," we are told, "six *cardinal symptoms*, of which patients suffering from aural disease may complain, viz., *deafness, pain, discharge, tinnitus, vertigo, and visible alterations in the ear*."

Cases of deafness are divided into two categories. (1) Deafness with discharge; and (2) deafness without discharge. Pain is a symptom of much importance, and presents many points of interest. . . . Discharge ("otorrhoea"), another highly important

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