

and they had no idea that the visitor was a trained nurse and journalist, who would record their opinion subsequently. It speaks well for the training the nurses receive, under the direction of Miss Riddle, the Matron, that the patients are so enthusiastic about them. The results obtained in the hospital show that on the scientific side the nursing care, as well as the medical treatment, must be of the first order, for the mortality rate last year was only a fraction over $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which, considering the difficult and dangerous character of the cases admitted, is a most excellent record. But good nursing includes kindness and sympathy as well as science, and of these essential qualities no testimony has quite the same value as that of the patients whom nurses attend.

A feature at this hospital is the number of small wards, none containing more than three beds. These open on to spacious corridors, and although the arrangement entails much more work than the nursing of a large ward, it is greatly appreciated by, and better for, patients of this class. Many of the patients pay something towards the cost of their maintenance, and come from a class unused to the publicity of a general hospital.

Probationers are received for training for a period of two years, and very valuable this experience is. Afterwards they are advised to pass on to general hospitals, where they are generally much appreciated, as they have been well drilled in foundation principles. Lady pupils are also received for a year's training on payment of £30.

The many friends of the hospital had an opportunity of seeing it at its best on the occasion of the Christmas entertainment last week. Rightly the wards had few decorations, but the wide corridors were lovely; fairy lamps gleamed everywhere, and the greatest taste was shown in the scheme of decorations. A Christmas Tree, laden with charming presents for both nurses and patients, was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Fenton, and many willing hands quickly distributed the gifts to those in the wards. A charming entertainment was provided by a number of talented friends of the hospital, and the crammed room and keen enjoyment of those present must have given pleasure to these kind artistes.

We are glad to learn that the executors of the late Mrs. Barnato have given £250 to the hospital under the exercise of their discretionary powers. The Treasurer, Mr. Henry E. Wright, or the courteous Secretary, Mr. Herbert E. Jennings, will gratefully receive many such gifts.

M. B.

THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

The Royal Sanitary Institute, 30, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W., of which His Majesty the King is Patron, announces that a public meeting to inaugurate arrangements for the Congress and Exhibition of the Institute, to be held at York, from July 29th to August 3rd, 1912, has been convened by the Lord Mayor of York in the Mansion House on Wednesday, this week, and is therefore being held as we go to press. The names of those who will take a prominent part in the Congress are a guarantee of its success. The Archbishop of York is the President, the Lord Mayor of the City—Ald. N. Green—the President of the section dealing with Municipal Representatives, and the names of those announced as Presidents of the numerous sections are notable in the sanitary and medical world. Mrs. Edwin Gray, a former President of the National Union of Women Workers, is President of the Domestic Hygiene Section.

The Institute also publishes the conditions of competition for the Henry Saxon Snell Prize, founded by the legacy left by the late Henry Saxon Snell (Fellow of the Institute) and awarded every three years by the Council with the object of encouraging improvements in the construction or adaptation of sanitary appliances.

The Prize will consist of Fifty Guineas and the Silver medal of the Institute, and is offered for an Essay of not more than 5,000 words on "Suggestions for Improvements in the Ventilating, Lighting, Heating, and Water Supply, Appliances and Fittings for an Operating Room, and its accessories, for a General Hospital of 400 Beds (no students)." Essays are to be delivered to the Secretary of the Sanitary Institute on or before August 30th, from whom full particulars can be obtained. The Sanitary Institute is doing excellent work in connection with the national health, and we commend it to the attention of our readers.

REFLECTIONS

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Seventeenth International Congress of Medicine is to be held in London in 1913—from August 6th to 12th, and His Majesty the King has accorded his patronage to the Congress.

We are not surprised that the suggestion of a secretary of a large London Hospital that insured patients of "blackleg" practitioners will be boycotted by the voluntary hospitals, has brought forth well-deserved rebuke from Dr. Howard Tooth and other physicians, who argue that the Insurance Act may affect the voluntary hospitals' finances adversely, and thus compel the managers to close wards, but that—so long as there are beds available—so long it is the duty of the medical staff to admit and treat the needy sick. This is the true spirit of the beloved physician.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)