

and departments which were not covered by the builders' contracts. And then they would need a much larger ordinary annual income to maintain them and to make the best possible use of their new opportunities of doing even better work for humanity in the future than in the past.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, presided over at the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor, a further decrease in the collections in churches and chapels on Hospital Sunday was reported.

The Lord Mayor said that during the 62 years of its existence the fund had collected over £3,500,000 and distributed it among the hospitals and medical charities of London.

Mr. R. Holland-Martin, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the collections in the churches were again lower at just under £24,000. A few years ago they collected over £50,000, but those generous years had passed. In the year the fund started—1873—£25,855 was obtained from just over 1,000 collections: the collections last year numbered 2,068.

Dr. Scott Lidgett, while agreeing that the collections had undoubtedly dropped because so many people went into the country instead of attending church or chapel, expressed the opinion that the volume of social activity and generous giving on the part of churches for the uplift of the standard of life of the poor had not shrunk. New churches had to be built in order to prevent the new populations in Greater London from lapsing into paganism, and that was a strain on the Churches at a time of commercial depression.

The Lord Mayor asked the council to consider a suggestion that Hospital Sunday should be held at a different period of the year.

Hospital Sunday was fixed for June 23rd, in 1935.

The students of University College Hospital and University College have handed to the treasurer of the hospital a sum of £2,000 in aid of the same fund—splendid result of a day's collection by them in the metropolis.

An anonymous donor has made a further gift of £30,000 to St. Mary's Hospital, W.2, for the erection of a pay bed block for patients of moderate means.

The benefactions which the hospital has received from the donor to the extension appeal fund during 1934 amount to £95,000, and a further gift of £5,000 has been promised subject to certain conditions.

Work on the new nurses' home to accommodate 200 nurses and the pay bed block providing 50 beds will be begun early this year.

At the thirty-second annual meeting of the Princess Marie Louise Guild of Help of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, at which Lady Reading presided, Lord Reading, proposing the adoption of the annual report, referred to the death of Lord Riddell, the president of the Royal Free Hospital, and to his great interest in and work for the institution. The true measure of a man's worth was, he said, in the service that he performed for others. Now that Lord Riddell had gone they all appreciated in an enhanced degree the truth of that.

Sir Albert Barratt has given another £5,000 to the Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham, of which he is Chairman of Governors. He recently gave the hospital £5,000, and in 14 years he has given the hospital £37,500, including a £20,000 gift in 1931.

The first section of the new nurses' home was opened by him on December 17th.

"OUR BIT."

MEMORIES OF WAR SERVICE BY A CANADIAN NURSING SISTER.

An important contribution to the literature of nursing during the Great War has been made by Miss Mabel B. Clint, A.R.R.C., in "Our Bit" issued under the auspices of the Alumnae Association of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. On active service with the First Canadian Hospital in France, in a French emergency hospital, in a hospital under canvas at Wimereux; on the desolate Island of Lemnos and elsewhere, Sister Clint, with expert knowledge, with seeing eyes, and with a literary skill sufficiently rare among nurses to make her book of outstanding value, has rendered a notable service to her profession.

She has been at pains also to collect, and to obtain permission to print, some of the finest poems the War produced, thus adding considerably to the value of the book.

Miss Clint begins her story on the night of August 4th to 5th, 1914, when she relates that "cable and telegraph wires carried a greater electric thrill across a continent than had up to that date been known in our Dominion of Canada . . . thank God, our young nation realised that the cause was just, and with a serious enthusiasm men declared themselves as loyal British subjects, ready to stand with King and Empire as champions of liberty and honour."

"Some Canadians, following the course of world politics in previous years, and cognizant of the unconcealed purpose of German militarists when they judged 'the Day' had dawned, had been long convinced of the inevitability of war. . . A few nurses had felt it proper to take a military course in the Garrison Hospital at Halifax, offered by the Militia Department. There our professional pioneers of the South African War had been retained as the nucleus of a national service that was to expand to nearly three thousand women. Thus a certain number were qualified to assume duty with the Expeditionary Force, which public opinion demanded."

"Within three weeks graduates of almost every hospital training school in Canada had volunteered 'for the duration,' and one hundred and four nurses, among whom were some French-Canadians, were selected to have the honour of serving their country in a minor capacity, and of accompanying that first thirty-three thousand of our Canadian men who were to lead the way in winning undying glory and praise in some of the severest tests of battle. My nurse-comrades will recall the impatience of that month of waiting, the thought that the war would be over before we sailed, the panic lest a name should be struck off the roll at the last minute. Then the fateful telegram: 'You have been selected as Nursing-Sister for service abroad. You will report Quebec, 23rd . . . and mobilization, in which we passed into the military machine indefinitely.'"

"The Nursing-Sisters, under Matron Margaret Macdonald (S.A. Medal), of the permanent staff Army Medical Corps, were quartered in the Immigration Hospital on the outskirts of the city until the day came when the notice board bore the welcome words 'Sisters will prepare to embark at once.'"

"Without word to relatives or friends we were driven to the dock in charrs-a-bancs at dusk and embarked on the *Franconia*, flagship of the Contingent . . ." On October 3rd anchors were weighed. 'The Maple Leaf for Ever' rang out in a farewell salute, as each ship headed east and took up its station at exact intervals in line ahead. The last ships left a golden sunset sinking behind them."

Arrived in London, the Canadian Sisters were, by the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)