

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The new hospital for seamen and for dockers at the Albert Docks will be opened on Trafalgar Day, October 21st, by Queen Mary, Patron of the Seamen's Hospital Society. The old hospital, built in 1890, is meanwhile still in use, though it has to be propped up with timber supports owing to soil subsidence. The new hospital, erected on land presented by the Port of London Authority, is a homely group of two-storey buildings in warm red brick.

In addition to the hospital at the Albert Docks the Seamen's Hospital Society is responsible for five other hospitals in and around London, the best known of which is the Dreadnought Hospital at Greenwich. Originally this hospital was founded, as related by *The Times*, in 1821 on an old wooden warship, the *Grampus*. This vessel was given for the purpose by the Admiralty, and was moored off Greenwich. Later it was replaced by a larger ship, the *Dreadnought*, from which the present Hospital on land takes its name.

The Society was founded soon after the end of the Napoleonic wars, when the streets of the larger cities were full of homeless sailors for whom the Government made no provision. A group of philanthropists—among them William Wilberforce and Zachary Macaulay—felt that the nation owed much to these impoverished mariners, and they held the first meeting of the Society on March 8th, 1821—a date now annually remembered by the Society as Founders' Day.

The Princess Royal will visit Halifax Infirmary on September 22nd, when she will receive gifts towards the Infirmary's £25,000 appeal. That appeal, to be launched the same week, is to enable the board to be more generous in their capital expenditure and to add to the investments.

It has been decided, with the approval of the Princess Royal, that children shall be given the opportunity of handing to her those gifts of money they or their parents have collected.

The Princess has visited Halifax Infirmary twice before: in 1925 to open a maternity ward, and in 1933 to open a paying-patients' ward to which she gave her name.

The Princess Royal who recently visited Harrogate to attend the Royal Bath concert in aid of the Grey Cross campaign for the Royal Bath Hospital, will again visit the town officially on September 24th to open the new maternity block at the Harrogate and District General Hospital, which is being built under a three-party agreement between the hospital, the Harrogate Corporation, and the West Riding County Council, but the greatest credit for its erection must go to the local branch of the National Council of Women, who, through years of effort, have raised £5,000 towards the estimated cost of £12,592.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Walter Elliot, recently opened a new general hospital in Louth, Lincolnshire. The hospital was formerly a Public Assistance institution, which has been converted by the erection of a large ward, and alterations to the existing building at a cost of about £71,500. It has accommodation for 200 beds.

"The Public Health Hospitals should co-operate with, and not rival, the Voluntary Hospitals," said Mr. Elliot. "Indeed, this principle of consultation is a statutory requirement of the Local Government Act of 1929."

The Minister described the great change which had come in the status of the old Poor Law hospitals, with the passing of the Local Government Act of 1929, which empowered local Councils to "appropriate" individual institutions to the public health services. This process

expunged the so-called "stigma of the Poor Law," and set up a new hospital service of great national importance. He noted with approval that in the Lindsey area of Lincolnshire, a Consultative Committee had been set up representative of the Voluntary Hospitals and the County Council, which did excellent work in co-ordinating the hospital services as a whole.

Miss Vacani's dancing Matinee at the London Hippodrome on June 28th in aid of the Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital for Children, Shadwell, realised the handsome sum of £1,340.

A WELCOME LEGACY.

Miss Georgina Maria Tompkins, of Porchester Terrace, London, has left a house at Bexhill as a Home of Rest for Gentlewomen in reduced circumstances, preferably for those residing in the South of England, and £23,000 for the upkeep thereof; and a further sum of £4,000, on the death of certain legatees as an accretion on the £23,000 legacy for the upkeep of the Home.

PENSIONS FOR NURSES.

HOSPITAL AUTHORITY ON WORK OF SUPER-ANNUATION SCHEME.

"INTERCHANGING" PENSIONS

"No girl need enter the nursing profession without the prospect of a pension at the end of her career," said Sir Edward Penton, Chairman, speaking at the annual meeting of the Federated Superannuation Scheme for Nurses and Hospital Officers at the College of Nursing on July 20th.

Sir Edward said that the Superannuation Scheme was launched ten years ago on the initiative of nurses and hospital officers and that, during that period, the sum assured in pensions to hospital employees now reached £25,000,000. Yet, Sir Edward Penton pointed out, the country at large seemed to be quite ignorant of the fact that the Superannuation Scheme existed to provide pensions for nurses and hospital officers at the end of their active careers.

INTERCHANGEABILITY OF PENSIONS.

Sir Edward pointed out that, at the moment, there was some difficulty about the interchangeability of schemes. "A nurse," he said, "can go from voluntary service to municipal or State service without loss of any pension she may hitherto have earned. The reverse is not the case and the present situation tends to divide the nursing profession into two distinct camps, greatly to the detriment of the public interest.

"The question of the interchangeability of pensions is one that affects the future of a great and respected profession and I suggest that the time has now come when the demand for interchangeability should receive the approval of Parliament and the Departmental Officers on the one hand, and the Federated Scheme on the other."

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Reviewing the progress of the Superannuation Scheme, Sir Edward said that the number of institutions participating was now 1,199, as against 94 ten years ago.

During 1937 the Scheme admitted the record total of 4,152 new entrants—nurses and hospital officers—and the number of members at the end of 1937 was over 24,500. Over £100,000 was paid out in 1937 in the way of benefits.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"He that is proud of riches is a fool. For if he be exalted above his neighbours because he hath more gold, how much inferior is he to a gold mine?"—*Jeremy Taylor*.

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