

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Throughout the country the Festival of Christmas was made as gay and happy for the patients as possible, the medical and nursing staffs devoting themselves to their entertainment in every way—old and young entering into the spirit of good will; gifts, lovely flowers, special diets, music and decorated trees being the order of the day.

Our hospitals are a part of our national life, and it is to be hoped that, although the progress of science and consequent increase of cost raises a very serious question of finance, in the near future the Conference of Hospital authorities to be held in London to consider the matter will arrive at some solution of how the voluntary hospitals can meet the necessary expenditure for their invaluable service to the public. Economic conditions are rapidly changing and perhaps methods must change with them. Anyway, money must be forthcoming, and we feel sure it will flow in the right direction. Medical and nursing education will otherwise suffer.

Mr. George Aylwen, the new Treasurer of Bart's., is to make a big appeal for its financial support. At a public function he stated recently that they had gone through all sorts of difficulties in their efforts to raise money. He said the Lord Mayor had granted the use of the Mansion House for a big appeal. One of his first efforts would be to build a paying patients' block. We are pleased to note that the Lord Mayor said at the same meeting that the city claimed Bart's. as the greatest of the Royal hospitals.

It was announced on December 14th, that Major the Hon. J. J. Astor had been appointed Chairman of the Middlesex Hospital, W. The announcement was made at a meeting of the Court of Governors by the Vice-Chairman of the board, the Hon. T. B. Money-Coutts.

The chairmanship has been vacant since September, when Prince Arthur of Connaught died. Major Astor will be the first non-Royal Chairman for some time. The Earl of Athlone was chairman from 1910 to 1924.

Christmas Eve began for Croydon General Hospital a series of enjoyable days for both patients and staff.

At 9 o'clock Nurses carrying lanterns toured the Hospital, singing two carols in each of the gaily decorated wards. The next day, at the request of the patients, these were repeated during visiting hours for their friends.

Monday was celebrated as Christmas Day, and at 12 o'clock the Mayor and Mayoress, conducted by the Matron and the House Governor, toured the Wards. This included a visit to "Chelsea Flower Show," "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Lloyds Inn," etc. They then joined in the festivities during the dinner hour. Father Christmas carved turkeys in the Children's Ward, and afterwards distributed gifts from the tree.

Boxing Day was chiefly the "Nurses' Day," tea, presided over by Matron, being served for their visitors in the spacious Recreation Room. This day ended with a Dinner, Prize-giving and Fancy Dress Dance.

The prizes were presented by Colonel E. M. Cowell, D.S.O., F.R.C.S., to the following Nurses:—

The Heath Clark Medal, Nurse L. Nichols.

Third year Nurses' Prize, Nurse K. Wright.

Second year Nurses' Prize, Nurse M. Crighton.

First year Nurses' Prize, Nurse M. Genge.

Col. Cowell's prize for practical work, Nurse K. Wright.

Mr. Meredyth-Jones Gynæcological prize, Nurse K. Wright.

Dr. T. W. Preston's Medical Prize, Nurse K. Wright.

It is the medical ideal to heal patients in the best possible surroundings. The Mount Vernon Hospital for Cancer, beautifully situated in its own charming country estate at Northwood, and yet readily accessible by road and train from London, fulfils this ideal.

Whilst patients can have most expert treatment in a delightful hospital away from the dust and turmoil of London, yet at the same time in the Radium Institute in London patients can be seen and advised.

The Radium Beam Research—a Committee of the Medical Research Council and of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research—is housed in the two Institutions. This research is conducting a Clinical test of the efficacy of the Radiation obtained by 10 grammes of Radium—the largest unit in the country.

Success in treatment is being secured. But all the experiment, the research and treatment involve very heavy expenditure. New apparatus and extensions are urgently needed, and a heavy burden of debt handicaps the hospital.

The Government is aware of the urgency of the cancer problem. It is preparing new schemes for the extension of treatment. But in announcing these schemes the Ministry of Health is emphatic that there must be no slackening of support for the wonderful work now done by the voluntary hospitals.

A quarter of a million would enable this great institution to extend its efforts greatly. Every year in the London area there are 26,000 new cancer cases.

"Be pitiful," said Ian Maclaren, "every man has a hard battle to fight." But the cancer patient has a harder and sterner struggle than any we know.

Be pitiful—help this great hospital to aid cancer's countless victims.

The management of Doncaster Infirmary decided to extend the nurses' home at a cost of £20,000, so that they may engage more nurses and make a 96-hour fortnight possible.

### ALL NIGHT EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR LONDON.

The Voluntary Hospitals Emergency Bed Service has now been extended to cover the full 24 hours. Until recently the Service has been closed between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. It will therefore now be possible for doctors to ring up at any time during the day or night and obtain immediate admission for patients requiring urgent attention.

The Service has dealt with cases on behalf of about 1,000 doctors since it was opened some six months ago. It is quite impossible to estimate the amount of time saved both to patients and doctors, but judging from the statements that used formerly to be made about waiting on the telephone for hours to obtain a bed, the saving must be enormous.

H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, President of King Edward's Hospital Fund, which finances this Service, has shown great interest in it and has been to the offices to see it at work.

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