

under a marquee, in the Recreation Court, where we also refreshed ourselves with tea, coffee, and strawberries and cream. We had now time to thoroughly examine and admire the floral decorations of the Board Room, principally composed of great golden lilies in artistic opal jars, and a profusion of dainty Iceland poppies, ranging in colour from pure white to the deepest orange tints; the corridors, where Mr. Ware's display of cut flowers carried one back to the beautiful old-fashioned gardens of one's youth, where blue delphiniums, and rarer gentianella, flame-red poppies, and lilies, gold and white, bloomed together in harmonious confusion; and the Chapel, the *chef d'œuvre*, a "symphony" in gold and purple and white, intermixed with the delicate greenery of ferns, and feathery grasses. It is only justice to repeat what I was told, that Mr. Albert R. Walford, who is well-known for his artistic powers and exquisite taste, decorated the Chapel with his own hand.

From five to seven the flower show was thrown open to the in-patients, Nurses, and their friends, during which time the charming Lady Superintendent provided a few select guests with savoury meats, for which they were duly thankful, and thus refreshed, we spent three more improving hours, listening to the band, and greatly enjoying the exhibition of scientific instruments, microscopes, &c., sent by Messrs. Mayer and Meltzer, Messrs. Baker, Messrs. R. and G. Beck, Messrs. Weiss, Mr. Thistleton and Mr. Schotte. The electrical Lighting apparatus, by the Electric Apparatus Company, Messrs. H. and E. Dale; the gas lighting (Wellsbach's system), by the Incandescent Light Company; demonstrations of medical electricity in the electrical room; and the writing telegraph, exhibited by Mr. J. M. Richards.

At nine, a most amusing entertainment took place in the Waiting Hall, occupying half an hour, entitled "Between Two Stools," written by Louisa Gray, and acted and sung with great spirit, by Mr. H. Leigh Bennett, and Mr. George Hawtrey, followed by a lantern exhibition, by Mr. Thistleton, of instantaneous photographs, taken by means of the detective camera.

At 10.30 we took our seats in the chapel, which was now all flooded with pale, silvery light, one strong ray falling on the sprays of pure white lilies, which appeared to be growing before the altar, and listened to an organ recital by Mr. Boyes; rising reluctantly to say "Good night" to the sound of the National Anthem. I have sketched the programme of this delightful *fete* somewhat in detail, because the power of organisation and forethought required to make it such a success, is possessed by few, and it may, therefore, be of use to others to take a lesson from Mr. Burford Rawlings, whose ability and good taste in such matters is proverbial.

Hundreds of guests visited the hospital during the day, amongst whom I noticed Sir James Crichton Browne, Dr. Bristowe, Mr. Brudenell Carter, Dr. and Mrs. Buzzard, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Wilks, Dr. and Mrs. Ferrier, Dr. Radcliffe, Dr. Braxton Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Holmes, Dr. and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Dr. and Mrs. Ormerod, Dr. and Mrs. Sansom, Mrs. Bruce Clarke, Mr. Victor Horsley, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Dacre Craven, Miss Phillippa Hicks, Miss Moore, Miss Coleman, Miss Foster, and Miss Henderson.

ST. KATHARINE'S HOSPITAL.

THE announcement that a Provisional Committee had been appointed by the Queen for the purpose of organising, in conjunction with the Duke of Westminster, Sir Rutherford Alcock, and Sir James Paget, a scheme for establishing, with the Women's Jubilee Fund, a system of Nursing the sick poor in connection with St. Katharine's Hospital, and had held its first meeting on June 26th, seems to have aroused a good deal of latent curiosity as to the past and the possible future of this institution. It cannot be said that the First Lord of the Treasury contributed much by his answer to Mr. Norris's question in the House of Commons, to the satisfaction of this laudable curiosity, and it may, therefore, not be out of place to recapitulate some of the facts which may be found in City histories, and mainly in Dr. Ducarel's "History and Antiquities of the Hospital of St. Katharine, near the Tower" (*Bib. Top. Brit.*, vol. ii., part 1), supplementing these from the scheme of management approved by the Queen ten years ago, an official document with which Mr. W. H. Smith might have made himself acquainted.

The hospital was originally founded in 1148 by Queen Matilda, and dedicated by her to St. Katharine for the spiritual benefit of her children, Baldwin and Matilda. This foundation appears to have been purely religious, and to have been from the first appropriated by the Augustine monks of the Monastery of the Holy Trinity. Abuses soon crept in, and Queen Eleanor, the widow of Henry III. set herself to reform them. After a prolonged struggle, diversified by several dramatic incidents, she succeeded in gaining the control, and since 1273 the patronage of St. Katharine's Hospital has been the peculiar appanage of the Queen Consorts of England.

The constitution, as settled by Queen Eleanor, has been maintained with only slight modifications, although the foundation has suffered many vicissitudes. She provided for a Master, three Brother-Chaplains, three Sisters, ten poor women called Bedeswomen, and six poor scholars. Philippa, the Consort of Edward III., persuaded that monarch to

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