

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, presided at the fifty-sixth annual meeting of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London at the House of Lords recently. In reviewing the work of the Fund, he said:—

"In these five years a good part of the energies of the Fund and an appreciable allocation of its monies have gone into building up a series of educational activities, and with the inauguration in the autumn of the first course for prospective matrons the present series will be complete. In saying that the series is complete I do not, of course, mean that the problems are solved but simply that the Management Committee feel that the activities which they have chosen to promote do fill the most important gaps. Their proper development will prove quite exacting enough. We do not therefore propose to undertake any fresh training schemes in the next few years but rather to concentrate on those to which we are already committed. We believe that if the different members of the hospital staff—administrators and matrons, ward sisters and finance officers, caterers, and the rest—can be encouraged to work closely together and to foster a good understanding something really important will have been achieved. The constant entry to our various training centres of people with day-to-day knowledge of hospital work, and their discussions with the many experts who help us in our educational activities, should result in real advance in the whole pattern of hospital administration, understood in its widest sense."

Speaking about other sides of the Fund's work, the Duke said:—

"The work of the Distribution Committee is changing and the demands upon it for grants are certain to grow. It is difficult if not impossible to draw hard and fast lines about amenities, for what is an amenity in one hospital may in another be a real need and hence, if the welfare of the patients is concerned, a necessity. There is the question of hospital gardens. Many hospitals, especially in inner London, lack gardens. Areas of tarmac surrounded by walls black with the grime of a century are not easily converted to grass and flowers. Often the idea of creating a garden has been considered but has eventually been turned down owing to the need to spend the money on other things. About a year ago we decided to try whether, without spending too much money, we could get something done. We have had help from two prominent fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society, Mr. Pilkington and Mr. MacKenzie, who have taken considerable trouble to devise modest areas of shrubs and grass which it would not be expensive or difficult for the existing staff to maintain. One of the first of these gardens is at Paddington Hospital and is easily seen from the Harrow Road. There is no doubt that at this hospital it already makes a great difference to the atmosphere. We have also been helping a good many hospitals to erect recreation huts for their staffs. Staffs in hospitals nowadays expect to be able to run dances and other recreational activities and there are great advantages in their being able to do so, rather than having to rely upon what facilities there may happen to be in the neighbourhood. Although some hospitals have premises which they can use it is surprising how many have not. The cost of a suitable hut is usually about £5,000 or more, and this is too large a sum for the hospital to find out of its free monies. Grants from the Fund have therefore been a way out of the difficulty. Gardens and recreation huts are only two out of a wide range of things for which grants have been made by the Fund. The claims of hospitals which remained outside the State service have not been forgotten, and the list includes several substantial grants to these.

"The provision of homes for aged sick patients from hospitals has made further progress and the homes continue to attract notice as a pioneer effort to help the hospitals. We

have recently opened one such home specially intended for nurses who have themselves become patients in the hospitals, often for long periods. It is a particularly attractive house on the edge of Hayes Common in Kent. It has recently been adapted and furnished with the help of the London Hospital who are going to run it. Those who have seen it tell me that it is a delightful place. The provision of this house is something which the Fund is very glad to have been able to do for the nurses.

"All over South East London there has been heavy pressure on the accommodation available in hospitals for old people. It was realised that much might be done to ease this pressure if the various voluntary agencies were used to the full and in the right way; but here came the rub. It was beyond the power of the individual hospitals and their almoner staffs to visit the patients in their homes and decide on the spot exactly what would be most useful. Much has been done to stimulate and encourage the voluntary organisations, and for two years now the King's Fund has been giving a special grant to the South East Regional Hospital Board to make a liaison possible in the detailed personal way that always brings results. There has been a striking improvement in the position, and the waiting lists are down to more manageable proportions even in this populous area with its none too extensive hospital provision. We want to consider how this piece of work can be best spread so that it will help all the Regions and not only one of them."

Sir Edward Peacock, Treasurer, said that the total income for the year 1952 was £467,000. Income from investments amounted to £340,000 the highest the Fund had ever had, legacies to over £65,000, and a further £50,000 was received from the Nuffield Trust for the Special Areas.

Grants to Hospitals and Convalescent Homes totalled £171,000, a further £100,000 was set aside for Homes for the Aged Sick, whilst £95,000 was absorbed by the various staff colleges and other activities administered by the Fund itself. Total expenditure during the year thus amounted to £413,000.

Since the end of the year 1952 the Fund had been notified that under the will of Mr. Emile Wertheimer it might expect to receive, after 21 years, the residue of his estate. The estate was sworn at £112,000, and the heart of some future Treasurer might be gladdened by the receipt of a substantial sum. It was also of interest that when the American Ambulance of Great Britain wound up their affairs the other day, the £17,500 in their Liquidation Account, and this they sent to the King's Fund—a charming and most helpful gesture.

Book Reviews

Neurosurgical Nursing*

By Haynes and McGuire.

I THINK THIS IS A splendid contribution for nurses who are doing neurosurgical work. There is an even balance of anatomy, physiology, bedside nursing, neurosurgical procedures, and the instrument set up for theatre nurses. The book is very readable, and could give encouragement to nurses contemplating neurosurgical work.

* Published by W. B. Saunders Company, Ltd., 7, Grape Street, London, W.C.2. Price 17/6.

Thoracic Surgical Management*

By J. R. Belcher & I. W. B. Grant.

A splendid contribution to the work of thoracic surgery. In the words of Sir Clement Price Thomas in the Foreword, "It will no doubt be of great value to those about to embark on thoracic surgery." Although a comprehensive manual, this work would appear to be too advanced for the student nurse, and more suitable for the post-graduate nurse.

The price, 16s., is well within all our pockets and is a worthwhile addition for the nurses' library.

* Published by Baillière Tindall-Cox, Ltd., 7 & 8, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2. Price 16/-.
B. C.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)