

Royal Visit to Birmingham.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW GENERAL HOSPITAL.

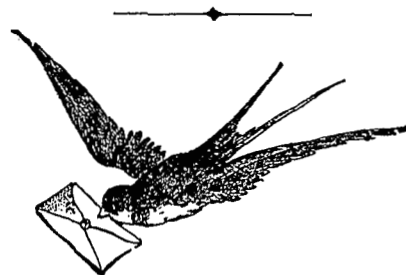
BIRMINGHAM was *en fête* last Saturday to do honour to the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York, who came there specially for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new General Hospital in St. Mary's Square. The weather was all that could be desired. This, and the fact that the working classes are liberal supporters of their Hospitals, doubtless accounted for the unusually large concourse of people. Accompanying the Royal couple were Lady Eva Greville, Sir Francis de Winton, Sir Charles Cust, Lord Rowton, the Earl and Countess of Dartmouth, and Viscount and Viscountess Newport. Detachments from several volunteer corps assisted the city police in keeping order. One great feature was the presence of some eighty Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans. The Royal party left Castle Bromwich shortly before noon, an escort being formed by the 17th Lancers. Arrived at the Town Hall, the National Anthem being played and sung upon entry, an address of welcome was read by the town clerk. Luncheon followed at the Council House, to which 140 guests had been invited, including the Bishop of Worcester and Mrs. Perowne, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain, Lady Aylesbury, and Lord and Lady Leigh. The toasts were for the various members of the Royal Family. In reply, the Duke of York said it would be a long time before they would forget the enthusiastic reception they had received. They were about to lay the foundation stone of the new General Hospital, a building which is a proof that, notwithstanding the pressure of business, they did not neglect the claims which the suffering poor had on their time and their resources (Cheers).

The toasts, the prosperity of Birmingham and the health of the Mayor, having been drunk, another procession was formed to the site of the new Hospital in Loveday Street, where a pavilion was erected for the occasion and contained between 3,000 and 4,000 people, including a large number of governors, committee, and officers of the Hospital. Miss Gladys Holden presented to the Duchess of York a beautiful bouquet of white orchids.

In reply to an address of welcome from the Committee, read by Mr. Walter W. Fisher, the Duke of York said: "I congratulate the city of Birmingham in having amongst its friends and citizens those whose liberality has provided the sum of £140,000, a sum which enables you to commence the erection of this noble and useful building. But I learn that the total sum of

£200,000 is required to complete the Hospital, and I feel sure that it only needs the citizens of Birmingham to know this fact for you to obtain the necessary balance of £60,000. The good work done by the old Hospital, within whose walls a million and a half of people have received treatment, will, I am happy to think, be largely increased when the new buildings are completed, with 342 beds, and with every modern improvement. Such an extension of your Hospital accommodation will carry its blessings to the sick and suffering poor of this city and neighbourhood. I am informed that your Committee has received a welcome intimation that a lady who takes a deep interest in the new Hospital has promised £1,250 towards the endowment of a bed. This generous example will, I venture to hope, be followed by others."

The Bishop of Worcester then offered up prayer. Mr. J. C. Holden (Chairman of the Building Committee) handed an artistic trowel, mallet, and level to the Duke, who then proceeded to lay the foundation stone. A flourish of trumpets signalled the conclusion. As a memento of the event, one of the wards will be named the Princess May Ward.



Our Foreign Letter.

A Melbourne correspondent writes:—

"In the NURSING RECORD of June 16th, seeing a letter from a trained Nurse in Sydney complaining of the want of appreciation of really good, properly trained Nurses there, I think, perhaps, as an English Nurse who has now been a good many years out here, but who has never taken root in the strange soil, nor been able so far to get up an affection for it, but still hopes some day to get home again, I must say a word for the medical men and patients I have nursed for, and who readily appreciated my nursing, and that of other trained English Nurses and Sisters. A great many good papers have been written by Matrons for private Nurses, the summing up of which is, "adapt yourselves to the households into which you go." I say the same to the English Nurse coming to these colonies. She must prepare herself for innumerable and *unthought of inconveniences* in the houses of the middle class, and even those in better circumstances. In the former, sickness is a terrible burden, and the added expense of a Nurse at 2 guineas a week overpowers the breadwinner; but what must it be if the Nurse is grumbling in remembrance of the niceties of English homes, and the amount of attendance she got there. Can we wonder if doctor and patient allow her to be superseded by the half-trained and *willing* Nurse. Now, I have seen many of the above kind of English Nurses out here, and

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