

"habits" are very limited in number, forming in this particular, a striking contrast to what is usually shown by such reports issued in the United States.

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There is a picturesqueness and an old-world aroma surrounding the reading of the Report of the British Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem belonging to the Order of St. John. To read in plain every-day print of patients from Nazareth and the district, and of sufferers coming from Bethlehem to the Hospital at Jerusalem seeking the restoration of their sight, carries one back through nineteen centuries to the time the work was begun, which is now carried on in the name of the First Physician who healed the sick and "gave sight unto the blind." This latter means more in an Eastern country, where such terrible forms of ophthalmia are prevalent, than we can appreciate, and it is good to think of the splendid work accomplished by the treatment during 1894 of 510 in-patients, 4,825 out-patients, and of the performance of some 1,200 important eye operations.

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An interesting Conference took place at the Manchester Congress to discuss the question of women's work in sanitary reform, and a resolution moved by Mrs. Clay, and seconded by Mrs. Worthington, was adopted, and a deputation appointed to place it before the Baths Committee of the Corporation:—"That the necessity of cottage bathhouses fitted with warm baths in the densely populated parts of Manchester having been forced upon the attention of the Ladies' Health Society, this Conference is of opinion that the Corporation would confer a great benefit upon the people by providing such bathhouses."

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Sir B. W. Richardson reviewed the sanitation of the past and set forth an ideal for the future. He said the first ideal was that of a national main drainage. Another ideal was for the systematic management of the sick of all classes, but especially the contagious sick. Whilst retaining a liking for Seymour-Haden's earth-to-earth burial, he was, on the whole, favourable to cremation. Children should be taught sanitary principles in the ordinary course of education.

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Sir B. W. Richardson also gave a most interesting lecture on Individual Sanitation amongst the working classes.

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The death is announced of Sir George Buchanan, for twelve years chief medical

officer of the Local Government Board. He was M.D. of London, F.R.S., and two years ago Edinburgh conferred its LL.D. upon him. Sir George retired from the Government service four years ago, but was recently serving the public as chairman of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.

### Conversazione at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

ONE of the most successful gatherings ever held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital was the celebration of the Centenary of the Abernethian Society, which took place on Wednesday evening, May 1st, when a large concourse of visitors was made welcome by the Conversazione Committee. The large historic hall decorated with flags and thronged with guests—past and present members of the Hospital Staff with their friends—presented a brilliant spectacle, the clear, cool colouring of the Nurses' uniforms sparsely scattered amongst the gayer toilettes, forming an artistic relief. The guests were received by the Presidents of the Society, Mr. E. W. Cross and Dr. W. Majdlow, at the entrance to the Great Hall, where the band of the Grenadier Guards gave a varied programme of popular music. A second band with a like popular programme was also in attendance, and during the evening cantatas and songs were sung by the St. Bartholomew's Musical Society, and a farce in one act was performed by members of the Dramatic Club, in the library, where, however, there was not even standing room for the numbers anxious to attend.

But as might be expected, from a celebration of this nature, much instructive entertainment was provided. A covered way leading to the college, museum and laboratories was made, and thither the visitors wended their way. A lecture on the "History of the Abernethian Society" was given by Dr. Norman Moore, which was largely attended; and a Lantern Demonstration of Bacteria and Germs, with an explanatory lecture by Dr. Kanthack, was equally well received.

Some interesting relics in connection with good old Dr. Abernethy were kindly lent by Mr. Willett.

In the pathological laboratory were exhibits by Dr. Klein and Dr. Kanthack of series of cultures of pathogenic organisms that appeared to the lay mind to have a taste for existing beautifully in hermetically-sealed test-tubes. And these and many specimens of bacteria set up under microscope, were clearly explained by Dr. Drysdale so as to be "understood" of the average mind—supposing that persons of only average mind had strayed into these scientific precincts.

Experiments and exhibits of microscopic slides were shown in the physiological laboratories by Dr. Bowman and Dr. Fletcher, and many interesting specimens and models were on view.

Models of ambulance appliances, kindly lent from the Royal Military Hospital at Netley, seemed to be a source of great interest to the Nurses present, as also were the appliances sent from the St. John's Ambulance Association.

Amongst the guests of the evening were the Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, Mr. and Mrs. Cross, the Rev. Father Fleming, and many distinguished members of the Hospital Visiting Staff, amongst whom were Dr. Lauder Brunton, Dr. Church, Sir Dyce Duckworth, Mr. Alfred Willett and Dr. West. The proceedings terminated soon after midnight and the guests departed with a generally expressed regret that centenaries can be only celebrated once in a lifetime.

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