

Lady Windsor's proposition of a bazaar on a large scale to be held next year in order to try and wipe off the debt of £7,000, which has been incurred by new buildings, extensions and improvements in the Cardiff Infirmary, is being taken up very enthusiastically by the Cardiff ladies. The women students at the University College have promised to be responsible for a stall.

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A Cyclo-Ambulance has been invented by a German surgeon, Dr. Hoenig. It consists of a car covered in with canvas, which contains a folding litter, and rests on four side wheels, and a fifth wheel in front pedalled by a cyclist. Another cyclist sits at the back, and the patient on the litter can be watched by him through a glazed window. The ambulance is in use in Berlin, and is easily steered and manipulated.

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At a meeting of clergymen representing the various religious denominations, held on November 4th at Belfast, it was decided that the last Sunday in November shall henceforth be held as Hospital Sunday, the day chosen for collection in the churches of Belfast on behalf of the Royal Hospital.

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At Manchester recently an inquest was held on the body of a hawker, who, feeling unwell, on one afternoon took twenty pills. Next day he declared himself better, and took eight more. The next day he died. His stomach was found red and congested as the result of taking these huge doses. A verdict of death from natural causes was, however, returned.

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This hawker may be described as voracious in his appetite for pills. It would be interesting to discover which variety of the many largely advertised patent pills induced him to form such an unusual "habit."

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A curious adventure has befallen a young doctor in Turin. While turning over the leaves of a book which had been bequeathed along with others to the medical faculty of Turin by a certain Doctor Giordani, he was astonished to find between the pages no less than forty bank notes amounting to the handsome sum of forty thousand *lire*. This incident will no doubt give rise to a most interesting case in the Turin courts. Although Dr. Giordani undoubtedly bequeathed his books to the library of the Faculty, his other heirs will hardly be disposed to admit that he intended to leave it his monetary savings as well. Possibly, however, the library trustees are quite prepared to prove that the deceased doctor was in the habit of utilising his thousand *lire* notes as book-markers.

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The new buildings in connection with the East End Mothers' Home, which are designed to maintain in the East of London a home for the treatment of poor married women during childbirth free of any charge to the patients, were this week formally opened. The home, which originally was at Shadwell, is now at 396, Commercial Road, and is in the centre of a working-class population. The building is also to be used for training Nurses for attendance on the poor at their own homes. To witness the ceremony a large company assembled, including the Bishop of Stepney and Mrs. Browne, Lady Greville, Lady George Hamilton, Lady Lucy Hicks Beach, Lady Dimsdale, Dr. Corner, the Rev. F. J. Jomini and Mrs. Jomini, Mrs. Berens, Mrs. Hare, Mrs. Woolcombe, and Mrs. Wootton-Isaacson. The Bishop of Stepney, in dedicating the new buildings, spoke highly of the good work which was there carried on, and expressed his thankfulness at being able to pronounce a blessing on such a good cause. The Rev. M. Hare, chairman of the committee, mentioned that the cost of the new buildings amounted to upwards of £600, and help was urgently needed. Lady Dimsdale, in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Mayor, who was to have presided, then declared the buildings open.

A Saunter through Middlesex Hospital.

THE new Operating Theatre of the Middlesex Hospital should serve as a model for all Hospitals desirous of being up-to-date in all the requirements of modern surgery. There are so many points of excellence about it that it is difficult to centre on one at which to begin. But perhaps one factor, which appeals at the same time to one's artistic sense and to an appreciation of aseptic surgery, is the colour scheme and non-porous character of the tiled walls, both of the corridors leading to it, and the Theatre itself. Cool, refreshing and restful are the beautiful green tiles with which the walls are covered. As someone present remarks in Hibernian style, "all the corners are round," so that not one speck of germ-laden dust can find a successful hiding-place. The "anæsthetic room" adjoins the theatre, where all cases are anæsthetised before operation. The ventilation and warming of the Theatre is simply perfect. The compressed air system—a Scotch patent—is used, whereby ventilation may be absolutely regulated, and can, if needs be, be shut off entirely or turned half on; all that is necessary is to turn a handle. The advantage of this in an operating-room can be readily grasped. If the case on the table be one likely to be injured by currents of air, as for instance, an empyema, or during a lengthy operation, the entire exhaustion current can be shut off. When the patient has left the theatre the ventilation can be thrown widely open, and the air of the theatre entirely changed in about three minutes.

This method of ventilation has not before been applied to any building, having been used hitherto on board ship. But it has proved so successful at the Middlesex Hospital that it is sure to be largely employed in the future.

A beautiful instrument-case, looking as decorative as part of a silversmith's shop window, discloses instruments of every conceivable size, shape and kind, all with metal handles, to admit of complete sterilization. It is interesting to note that the boiling or sterilization of the instruments is effected by electricity. In fact, throughout this wonderful Theatre, most things are accomplished by the pressing of a button, or the turning of a tap. To avoid the taps of the washing basins being soiled by fingers stained with blood, hot and cold water is turned on by pressure of foot-taps. A slop sink, provided with flushing apparatus, effectually disposes of discharges, pus, blood, &c., while soiled dressings are put into enamelled tin-covered receptacles, which, being placed inside a small cupboard and a handle turned, disappear down a shoot into regions below.

A sink is specially set apart for the washing of sponges. Large disinfectant bottles stand on a shelf overhead; from these long tubes lead down to the sinks, so that the sponges may be cleansed with any antiseptic desired, or solutions for the surgeon's use instantaneously prepared. The sponges, when cleansed, are quickly passed through a wringer, which at once reduces them to the required condition of dryness. Irrigators are so arranged at ceiling height that they may be lowered to any required level, or advantage taken of the force produced by the stream falling from a height.

Another admirable novelty is a fixed battery, which

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