

Their Royal Highnesses inspected the two re-opened wards.

Great preparations are being made at Brighton to welcome the Prince of Wales on his visit to the town on the 29th inst. for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new buildings in connection with the Sussex County Hospital. The streets and houses along the route will be extensively decorated, and a great firework display will follow in the evening.

A distressing account of the financial condition of Charing Cross Hospital was brought forward at the Annual Meeting. It will be remembered that some time since a suggestion was made that the Hospital should be removed to Camberwell, a district said to be badly in need of a Hospital. The Board thinks that there is no reason for supposing this step would remove or diminish their financial difficulties. The Chairman at the meeting stated that they had come to the end of their resources, and great efforts must be made if the Hospital was to be kept open.

A good deal of feeling has been aroused in medical circles in this country by the regulations which have recently been issued for the Twelfth International Medical Congress, to be held in August, 1897, at Moscow. That which is the cause of the dissatisfaction reads as follows:—"French is recognised as the official language of the Congress for all international relations. At the general assemblies speeches may be delivered in other European languages. The sectional papers and discussions must be either in French, German, or Russian."

Mr. George Richmond has contributed £1,000 to the St. Thomas's Hospital to endow a surgical bed "In memoriam James Richmond."

At the Annual Meeting at the Royal Free Hospital on Wednesday, a marble memorial of the late Mr. George Moore, who was Chairman of Committee from 1858 to 1864, was unveiled.

It was announced at the Annual Meeting of Governors of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, that in consequence of the acquisition by a railway company of the premises in Marylebone Road which, have been used for some years as a Nurses' Home, a new Nurses' Home is to be built.

Surgeon Captain Hilliard, who attended Prince Henry of Battenburg in his last illness, has been personally decorated by the Queen with the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

At the Essex and Colchester Hospital complaint has been made in the Annual Report that the drug bill had risen by £56 12s. 2d. to a total of £401 16s. 9d., and the cost of instruments is £14 11s. 11d. more than last year, which had raised the average cost of out-patients for drugs and share of establishment charges 6½d. a head. Moreover, the increase since 1893 was 10½d. a head. That was certainly excessive, and the Committee were of opinion that there must be a serious waste of drugs. The general internal expenditure had also grown unduly, although it was not easy to lay one's finger upon the faulty point.

The Red Cross Society.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY IN ITS RELATION TO PHILANTHROPY.

BY MISS CLARA BARTON.

MISS CLARA BARTON, whose work in the Hospitals during the American Civil War justly earned for her the title of the "Florence Nightingale of the United States," has just gone to Armenia as the organiser of a relief movement to the distressed, starving and suffering women of Armenia, whose condition is infinitely worse than that of the wounded soldier. That Miss Barton—who is sixty-five years old—should engage in such a dangerous and arduous mission after so long and so busy a life, is one more proof of the good stuff that women are made of. Among the many fine papers given at the Conferences of the National Council of Women of the United States, at the International Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia, was one upon the significance of the Red Cross movement, by Miss Clara Barton, of Washington, whose graphic account of the origin and work of the Red Cross, which follows, was received with enthusiastic applause:—

"I am asked to say something upon the 'Significance of the Red Cross in Its Relation to Philanthropy.' The Red Cross has been quietly doing its work for thirty years, and is now established in more than forty independent nations. No other institution on earth, not even Christianity, has a public recognition so nearly universal. None has ever adhered more closely to its one single purpose of alleviating human suffering.

An institution or reform movement that is not selfish must originate in the recognition of some evil that is adding to the sum of human suffering or diminishing the sum of happiness. Christianity, temperance, and sanitary regulations in general are examples. Great evils die hard, and all that has yet been done is to keep them within as narrow limits as possible; Of these great evils, war is one. War is in its very nature cruel—the very embodiment of cruelty in its effects, not necessarily in the hearts of the combatants. But men do not go to war to save life. They might save life by keeping the peace and staying at home. They go solely with intent to inflict so much pain, loss, and disaster on the enemy that he will yield to their terms. All their powers to hurt are focussed upon him.

In a moving army the elements of destruction, armed men and munitions of war, have the right of way; and the means of preserving and sustaining even their own lives are left to bring up the rear as best they can. Hence, when the shock and crash of battle is over, and troops are advancing or retreating, and all roads are blocked, and the medical staff trying to force its way through with supplies, prompt and adequate relief can scarcely ever reach the wounded. The darkness of night comes down upon them like a funeral pall, as they lie in their blood, tortured with thirst and traumatic fever.

The memory of such scenes set a kindly Swiss gentleman to thinking of ways and means for alleviating their horrors. In time, and by efforts whose

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