

An anonymous donor has sent £500 to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road, in aid of the Extension and Improvement Fund.

In the unavoidable absence of the Lord Mayor, the Archdeacon of London presided on Monday, at the Guildhall, over the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund.

The Bishop of Stepney moved the adoption of the report, which he regarded as most satisfactory. The report stated that the total receipts for 1896 amounted to £46,035, of which £40,501 was the amount received from 1,811 congregations. In no previous year, the Bishop stated, had the collections taken at the various places of worship realised so large a sum. In 1873, when the contributing congregations numbered 1,072, the average amount per congregation was £24 2s., while this year the average was £22 7s. Since in recent years a large number of small congregations had made collections, he thought that the maintenance of so high an average was a very encouraging feature. It was sometimes said that the contributions by the Church of England were enormously large as compared with those of other churches. Anyone who made capital out of that fact acted most unfairly. With all their great advantages in the matter of numbers and wealth, and considering that other congregations had to provide for the support of their ministers, he thought it unjust to attempt to make the large proportion contributed by the Church of England in any way redound to its credit or to the discredit of other churches. The management of the Fund, he thought, was deserving of great praise. Notwithstanding all the labour involved, the expenses were only 3·6 per cent. of the total receipts. He concluded by expressing a hope that the Fund would be still more successful next year.

The Chairman, in moving that the laws and constitution of the Fund should be continued for another twelve months, said it was desirable to do everything to increase public interest in Hospital Sunday, and he thought that the medical profession might show their sympathy and interest in the movement by appearing themselves in person in St. Paul's Cathedral at one of the services on Hospital Sunday.

Canon Graham moved that June 20th should be fixed for Hospital Sunday in 1897. He said that that Sunday happened to fall on the eve of the celebration of the Queen's long reign, and it appeared to him that no more worthy act could begin that festive occasion than that of making a special effort to assist the Hospitals of London—Institutions in which her Majesty, as president of this Fund, took a deep interest.

Canon Fleming, in seconding the resolution, suggested that efforts should be made to get Sunday schools to take a greater interest in Hospital Sunday.

The Corporation of Gloucester propose to devote £3,500 from the sum of £20,000 received by them from the sale of certain property to the Gloucester Railway Carriage Co., to the purchase of land for Hospital purposes.

## Our American Letter.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).

### DISTRICT NURSING.

DISTRICT Nursing in America is not as completely organised as it is in England, though in Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and other large cities there are District Nursing Associations which are well and widely known. New York City is the home—not of any one single or comprehensive Association for Nursing the poor in their homes—but of a number of Associations of separate origin and of varying characteristics; all vigorous and successful in their different lines, and all highly interesting as illustrating the different tendencies of thought and feeling which underlie and inspire work among the poorer classes of to-day. The oldest centre of District Nursing, not including religious orders, such as the Catholic and Protestant Sisterhoods or the Methodist Deaconesses, is the City Mission, under the control of various denominational Churches, and whose workers live in a large house in an old and once quiet part of town, still somewhat sequestered, though not far from Broadway, and separated by a considerable distance from the vast tenement house regions to which the members of the mission travel daily in their work. The atmosphere of this Home is strongly evangelical. The household is large, and is conducted by a Matron under a Board of Managers. Purely religious and missionary work—Bible reading, Sunday school management, and similar objects—take first place in the City Mission, and Nursing is secondary, being but an adjunct to the primary purpose, which is the diffusion of the Gospel.

Some six or eight Nurses are employed, on graded salaries, according to the length of time they have devoted to the work. They may be graduates of any good School, and sectarian qualifications are not exacted, but they must be religious in the evangelical sense of the term; ready to exhort, sing, and pray, and they are expected while pursuing their Nursing work, to grasp every opportunity for inculcating religious truths, or for winning converts to church or chapel.

They do not work under the supervision of a Head Nurse as is done in the District Nursing work of Chicago for instance, nor do they, as a rule, have any direct orders from, or systematic communication with, any special medical men. These conditions tend to hamper and limit to some extent, the professional side of their work. Their cases come to them from the Bible readers and Missionaries, or as direct calls from the patients themselves, or they may encounter them in going about from one patient to another.

Among the churches of New York, many of which maintain one or two Nurses to work among the poor of their own parishes, Grace Church is prominent for the extent of its Mission work. Its new, beautiful, and imposing buildings on the east side contain in one block, chapel, school rooms, club-rooms; manual training schools; homes for the aged, the decrepit, and the orphans of the parish; public baths and gymnasiums; apartments for the resident clergy, and domiciles and working departments for the Deaconesses. For some years Grace Parish maintained a District Nurse, who was a fully-trained Hospital graduate, and who worked under the direction of the clergy, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)