

Lord Glenesk will take the chair at the annual dinner of King's College Hospital, to be held on May 14th in the Whitehall Rooms.

Mr. S. B. Bancroft has kindly consented to read, on behalf of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, Dickens's "Christmas Carol," on Tuesday afternoon, February 16th, at 3.30 at Stafford House, St. James's, most kindly lent for the occasion by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. This will be the last of this most interesting series of readings given by Mr. Bancroft this season, and the only *matinée*.

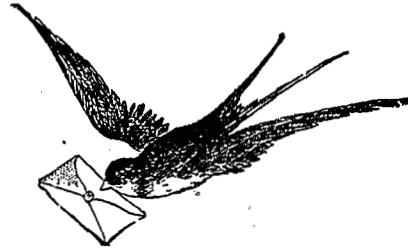
Among the proposals discussed by the Town Council of Windsor for the commemoration of the Queen's reign, have been suggestions for new almshouses, pensions for widows and old people, and a new infirmary, to be called the Victoria Hospital, together with a pleasure garden for the convalescent inmates, in the place of the present Windsor Royal Infirmary. The last-named suggestion found the most favour, and it has been decided to ascertain what the cost of such a building, to hold 60 beds, would be.

During the week the fund for the erection of a new hospital at Belfast in commemoration of Her Majesty's record reign has been materially augmented by the munificent donation of £2,000 from the Great Northern Railway Company. The firm of Messrs. William Ewart and Son have contributed £1,000, and subscriptions of smaller amounts have also been received, bringing the fund well up to £60,000. This is highly satisfactory, considering that only a few weeks have elapsed since the project was set on foot.

Mr. C. J. Thomas, of Bishopsgate and Blackheath has been appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, in the place of the late Mr. Joseph Fry, who held that position for nearly 30 years.

The proceeds of Mellin's Food Art Competition, amounting to £247 10s., have been distributed amongst the undermentioned hospitals, while the sum of £10 6s. 9d., which was collected in the boxes for the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund, has been handed over:—

Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease ... ..	£22 10 0
Belgrave Hospital for Children ... ..	22 10 0
Cheyne Hospital for Sick and Incurable Children ... ..	22 10 0
East London Hospital for Children, and Dispensary for Women ... ..	22 10 0
Evelina Hospital for Sick Children... ..	22 10 0
Hospital for Sick Children (Great Ormond Street) ... ..	22 10 0
North-Eastern Hospital for Children ... ..	22 10 0
St. Mary's Day Nursery and Hospital for Sick Children ... ..	22 10 0
Victoria Hospital for Sick Children ... ..	22 10 0
Edinburgh Royal Hospital for Sick Children ... ..	22 10 0
Brighton Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children ... ..	22 10 0
	<hr/>
	£247 10 0



### Our American Letter.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).

#### NURSE ATTENDANTS.

SOME little time ago, possibly a year or two, a system of training "Attendants" for old people, children, and convalescents, was established in Boston, and this winter a similar plan is being tried in New York, with headquarters in the United Charities' Building, under the guidance and management of various philanthropic society women and medical women and men. The idea inspiring this work is—that there are many cases of chronic invalidism and slow convalescence which are not really cases for a trained nurse, and which yet require the whole time and attention of some one, this "some one" being usually a member of the family, who perhaps is not fitted for such work, or who must make serious sacrifices in doing it; also that many feeble elderly persons, and delicate young children, need an amount of attention and care beyond that of the ordinary maid, yet not such as would demand the services of a trained nurse. To meet this want the trained "Attendant" is provided. The course of instruction covers two months, and comprises forty lectures given by a trained nurse on lines carefully laid down by a physician, and several hours of practical work each day. This practical work is obtained, when possible, in Hospital wards. Two classes of students or pupils are recognised—amateurs, who intend taking the course only to put the knowledge gained to use in their own homes, and professionals, who intend to pursue the calling as a means of livelihood. A tuition fee is charged, being twenty dollars in the case of the former class, and twelve dollars in that of the latter, the instruction being in both cases the same. When the course is completed a certificate is given testifying that the holder is capable of caring for feeble elderly persons, little children, chronic cases, and convalescents. The professional graduates then register with the committee in order to secure positions. Their charges are seven dollars a week.

Trained nurses naturally look with some little doubt on this sort of training, as bringing fresh forces into an under-bidding competition with themselves, and contend that these attendants, or at least the brighter ones among them, will not long be content with their circumstances, but will, after acquiring a little experience, call themselves nurses and take cases at twelve or fifteen dollars a week which ought to be given to a trained nurse at twenty or twenty-five dollars. The managers of this "Attendants'" course of training state very emphatically that their graduates are in no sense trained nurses, and that they are not permitted to make any such claim for themselves; that their work does not clash with that of the trained nurse,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)