

Mr. Rutherglen has performed a public duty in drawing attention to this matter, as the system of begging, carried on by workhouse inmates on leave, amounts to a scandal which should be suppressed.

The nurses of the Newcastle Infirmary have moved into larger houses, which it is hoped will prove sufficient for their needs until the new hospital is completed. The furniture has been provided free of cost by a ladies' committee, presided over by the late Mayoress, Mrs. Albert Lord.

We have received notice of the formation of a society named the "Society for the Protection of Hospital Patients." We are told that for the attainment of its object the society will rely on the following methods:—

(a) Educating the public mind as to the facts of the present hospital system.

(b) Advising patients as to their legal right as patients, and the special application of them in particular instances.

(c) Investigating alleged cases of individual grievance on the part of patients, and carrying them, if necessary, before the public courts for exposure and redress.

That there is a feeling of distrust on the part of many as to the treatment they will receive if they enter a hospital is well known. That this feeling is usually dissipated by admission to a hospital, and that the magnificent work done by most of our hospitals is fully appreciated, by those they relieve, we thoroughly believe. At the same time it is never, in our opinion, wise to ignore or to suppress the feelings of a minority, and we therefore notice the fact of the formation of this new society, which asserts its object to be "to uphold and impress upon the public mind the principle—too largely overlooked and set aside—that our hospitals exist for the relief and care of the sick, and the alleviation of the sufferings of patients confided to their care." We observe that the provisional council of the society have forwarded an address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, stating that in their opinion there is cause for the falling off in the public subscriptions to hospitals, by reason of the "many exposures of serious malpractices recently made in the Press and in the public courts." They also make other most serious statements which, we presume, they are in a position to prove, and which certainly should put all hospital authorities on the alert in order that there may be no possible ground for any such allegations in connection with the hospital for the management of which they are responsible.

The address sent to the Prince of Wales is signed on behalf of the council by the chairman, Sir J. G. Tollemache Sinclair, Bart.

New departments have lately been added to the Johns Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore. A new clinical laboratory has been thrown open to students. This new structure contains eight rooms, all fitted with the latest and most improved apparatus in aid of scientific research. The additions also comprise a new children's ward, on the south side of which a glass enclosed porch has been erected as a "Sun-room" for the children. Here the convalescents can play, and the "tinies" in cot or couch can be so placed that they can enjoy the revivifying effects of the sun's rays. We all know how the growing child absorbs "light," and how necessary it is to its well being.

The Queen and the Hospitals.

HELP will be gladly received towards the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund for London, upon any of the following terms suggested by Mr. James Knowles, editor of the *Nineteenth Century*:—

(a) Annual subscriptions for the life of the subscriber, or at least "until further notice"; or

(b) Subscriptions for a limited term of years; or

(c) Sums representing subscriptions compounded at 4 per cent., or at the rate of £25 in a single payment in lieu of an annual subscription of £1; or

(d) Donations the application of which the donors may leave to the discretion of the Council of the Fund.

Many magnificent donations and subscriptions have already been received.

The Duchess of York has consented to become the President of the new Convalescent Home for Women, proposed to be erected by the County of Surrey in commemoration of the Queen's long reign.

On Saturday, the Chairman of the Isle of Wight County Bench stated that Princess Henry of Battenburg, as Governor of the Isle of Wight, desired it to be made known that she earnestly hoped that, in addition to any local celebration in connection with the Queen's reign, the inhabitants of the island would unite in subscribing to a County Commemoration Fund, for the purpose of adding a children's ward, which was sorely needed, to the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary.

The Mayor of Southampton has issued invitations to representatives of the whole district to attend a meeting to consider the most fitting means of celebrating the Queen's reign, and an effort is to be made to raise £20,000 to extend the Royal South Hants Infirmary, towards which Her Majesty has given a handsome donation.

The appeal which was made for funds to rebuild the Royal Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Hospital, in commemoration of Her Majesty's lengthened reign, has been liberally responded to. An architect is now engaged in preparing plans, £10,000 being the minimum sum proposed to be expended. The late Prince Consort laid the foundation stone of the existing Hospital, which occupies a site granted by the Lords of the Admiralty, and it is hoped that the Prince of Wales, or some other member of the Royal family, will be able to attend to lay the first stone of the new building.

THE chairman of the York County Hospital is appealing to the public to commemorate the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign by subscribing towards a new children's ward and new nurses' home for that institution. These have been much needed for some time, but the committee have felt unable to authorise the necessary expenditure, which amounts to £2,000. An unexpected legacy of £1,000 has now been received by the hospital, and it is proposed to devote this sum to the purpose, provided that a similar amount can be raised by public subscription. Towards this the committee have already received £245 10s., including £23 collected by the nurses themselves. It is much to be hoped that the entire sum may be in hand before the completion of the present year.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)