

The Hospital World.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

THE 117th Annual Report of the General Hospital, Birmingham, which has been recently issued shows a record of good work done. It is stated that although a special appeal for new annual subscriptions met with a very encouraging response, the amount of the subscription list is still alarmingly below the amount which will be required to maintain the Hospital on the larger scale of work upon which it is about to enter. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the citizens of wealthy Birmingham will unite to place their new Hospital in a position which is sound financially. It is hoped that the opening ceremony of the New General Hospital may take place early in July, when her Majesty the Queen has graciously deputed Princess Christian to act on her behalf. At the Jaffray Suburban Branch Hospital, considerable improvements have been made during the past year. The institution was closed for three months, during which time the system of drainage has been relaid on the most approved principles. The Hospital has been repainted inside throughout, new blinds have been fixed, and the wards, corridors, etc. have been lighted with incandescent gas light.

Surgical casualties are treated at this hospital in the casualty room of the out-patient department during the morning (*i.e.*, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.), and in the central surgery at other times. In the casualty room there is a staff nurse always on duty, and here surgical casualties are also dressed on their second and subsequent visits.

The central surgery is in charge of the day superintendent from 9 a.m. till 9 p.m., when the night superintendent comes on duty, as well as a night surgery nurse.

In this department all cases for admission are seen, and all new casualties after the out-patient department is closed (1 p.m.)

There are no beds, but all cases admitted go direct to the wards. Where necessary, other cases are left for a time to "recover" on one of the couches in the inner surgery. On gynaecological out-patient days (Tuesdays and Fridays) there is also a female attendant in that department.

In the new building now being erected, and which it is hoped will be occupied in the autumn of this year, there will be two small wards attached to the out-patient and casualty departments, each capable of holding two beds, for the temporary admission of noisy or doubtful cases, and special care has been taken by the architect to prevent any sound being transmitted from this to other parts of the hospital.

The number of surgical casualties dealt with last year was 18,140, besides those which were admitted as in-patients.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE following letter has appeared in the *Times* :—

SIR,—When the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund was instituted it was distinctly notified that it was intended to apply to those whose names were not found on any hospital subscription list, but now application, by circular, is being made without distinction, as I can vouch for my name appearing on various hospital lists, and I have heard of many similar applications.

The result of this is that the regular subscribers and donors to hospitals are discontinuing their contributions and giving them to the Prince of Wales's Fund, and the object for which this fund was started is being largely defeated.

I consider the original obvious intention of not applying to regular subscribers and donors should be adhered to if, as we all desire, the Prince's Fund is to be an unqualified success.

Yours &c.,
HOSPITAL COMMITTEEMAN.

In criticising the scheme when first proposed we foresaw and suggested this danger, and there is no doubt that the charitable public will not support the individual hospitals and the Prince of Wales's Fund as well, and that if the Prince's Fund is to succeed, it will largely supersede the present system of hospital support. We fear the special hospitals will be the greatest sufferers from the proposal to distribute voluntary charity through a central committee. Any way the present system of self-support and self-government of the London hospitals is doomed if this centralisation of distribution of funds is carried out as suggested.

A meeting will shortly be held in St. James's Hall to place before the public the dangers of making the hospitals of London, which are also schools of medical science and research, financially independent of public opinion by endowing them through the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund. It is argued that if the hospitals do not depend upon public subscriptions for their maintenance, the patients will be absolutely at the mercy of hospital authorities, whether these managers are good, bad, or indifferent.

Nottingham is to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by extending the General Hospital and improving the position of the District Nursing Federation, and the town is fortunate in possessing a home-made millionaire, who no doubt will see that the commemoration of the longest reign will be worthy of the event. Mr. Hooley has already promised to give £10,000 if the like sum is collected by the Hospital Saturday Committee.

The Rev. Francis Jacox has left £1,000 to Charing Cross Hospital, to endow a bed to be called the

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