

The Hospital World.

THE HOSPITALS OF RUSSIA.

AN interesting address on Russian Hospitals was delivered recently at a meeting of Anderson's College Medico-Chirurgical Society, Glasgow, by Dr. Erskine, which was fully reported in the *Glasgow Herald*. We cull, for the benefit of our readers, the following details. The chief factors in the formation of the extensive system of hospitals and public medical provision now prevailing through the empire were three, namely, the reign of Peter the Great, the emancipation of the serfs, and the influence of the advance of modern medicine and surgery. An English apothecary, James Frencham, made the first beginning towards affording some medical provision near the close of the sixteenth century, and Englishmen, from the earliest times, have played an important part in organizing and developing the public medical institutions in the Russian Empire. The dispensary of James Frencham, originally founded for the purpose of supplying drugs to the Czar and the members of the Court at Moscow, afterwards became a public ministry of medical affairs, which, by the middle of the seventeenth century, was even charged with the duty of providing against infectious diseases.

The first hospital of any importance was built by Peter the Great in 1707 at Moscow, and was a copy of one he had seen at Greenwich during his visit to England some years previously. Up to this time, also, the only properly qualified medical men resident in Russia were a few foreigners attached to the Court, but Peter the Great founded in connection with his hospital a medical school. At the present day the small infirmary has developed into a great military hospital, with over 1500 beds, while the medical students in attendance at Moscow University last year numbered 1400, the total number of students in all the faculties being over 4000. The cost of medical education in Russia seems remarkably cheap, the fees amounting to only about £10 yearly, while the cost of living for a student in Moscow appears to be from £2 10s. to £5 a month. The supply of medical men in Russia is stated to be very inadequate, but there is a class of medical men—half doctors, half nurses—who undergo a definite course of training, and obtain a diploma, and who are, in Dr. Erskine's opinion, absolutely indispensable for meeting the medical necessities. The medical affairs of the Empire are controlled by State authorities, adequate medical service, free of cost and reasonably accessible, being provided for the peasant population.

In Russian towns the hospitals are maintained by a tax of from two shillings to three shillings on all persons under a certain social position, or those

who in the event of serious illness could not afford medical fees. It has recently been proposed in St. Petersburg to levy an annual tax of four shillings on all persons for hospital purposes.

At Moscow, hospital buildings have been erected during the last ten years, in order to meet the requirements of modern medical science, at a cost of over half a million pounds, and the little town of hospitals and laboratories, equipped with all the most approved modern appointments and apparatus, was a perfect revelation to medical men visiting Moscow a few months ago.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Duchess of York has signified her approval of the memorial to the late Duchess of Teck taking the form of a Home of Rest for Poor Working Women from London, in connection with the Victorian Convalescent Home for Women on the South Coast. This would indeed be a charity worthy of support, as all those who work amongst the poor drudges of this terrible city are appalled by the weary and sunless lives led by the large majority. A few weeks rest, fresh air, sunshine, and good food—what an unattainable combination of delights for our "slum sisters."

The collection committee of the Hospital Saturday Fund, in a report issued recently, state that the workshop and business house collection, despite the many disturbing influences that prevailed in 1897, and notably the trouble in the engineering trade, maintained its supremacy, and finally reached £16,627 14s. 7d., or more by £290 6s. 2d. than the total realized in 1896. The street collection, which will be abandoned in future, yielded £3156 3s. 8d., being a decrease of £1727 7s. 10d. on the total raised in this way in 1896.

Mr. Yarrow, senior member of the well-known shipbuilding firm, is, we are informed, the anonymous donor of the £25,000 to the London Hospital.

With regard to the handsome gift to Guy's, we are now informed that the Treasurer has received from Mr. Henry Lewis Raphael the sum of £20,000 to be devoted to the building of the "Henriette Raphael Nurses' Home," in memory of the late Mrs. Raphael. By this munificent gift, one of the special and pressing needs of the institution has been provided for.

Mr. Alfred Craske, Secretary of the North-West London Hospital, Kentish Town Road, has announced that in consequence of the serious decrease in the contributions to the funds of the charity during the Jubilee year, as compared with the previous year, the Treasurer (Mr. George Herring) has given £5000 as a donation.

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