

The Queen has consented to become patroness of the new General Hospital at Birmingham, and this event is to be marked by the presentation of a marble bust of Her Majesty by the Chairman, Sir John Holder, which is to be placed in the out-patients' hall, between the tablets recording respectively the stonelaying and the opening of the building.

The hospital, it will be seen from the report, stands in need of a larger subscription to support it in an adequate manner. That, of course, was to be expected. There are many more beds in the new hospital than there were in the old building, and there are plenty of candidates for admission for all the beds that can be properly used. As every additional bed and every new patient mean extra expenditure, it is obvious that, if the present building is to be fully used, more money must be obtained. The increase which appears to be required is, roughly speaking, about £5000 a year in excess of the present income. This amount, large as it may seem at first sight, should be obtained without very much difficulty. It needs two things—organized effort in collecting promises of new subscriptions, and willingness on the part of prosperous business people to consecrate a moderate portion of their gains to the cause of charity.

The fifth Annual Meeting of the Maternity Charity and District Nurses Home, Plaistow, was held last Monday at Wimborne House, Piccadilly, by the kind permission of Lord Wimborne. The Bishop of St. Albans occupied the chair. The Bishop urged the claims of the charity on the ground that in this densely populated portion of his district there were many poor of the class who could manage to get along when in health, but who when ill were brought to a state of bankruptcy. Dr. Playfair also spoke in support of the Charity.

The Bristol Eye Hospital was able to give a most satisfactory report of the past year to the subscribers and friends of the institution at the recent annual meeting. The hospital has now entered upon its eighty-eighth year of useful work.

The governors of the Wolverhampton General Hospital have during the past year succeeded in defraying a debt of £3000, which has for some time past crippled the good work of that institution.

The terms of the new charter for the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, have been unanimously adopted by the Governors. The two main points in the new charter are:—(1) Power to carry on a Maternity Hospital, and the treating of poor women in their own homes; and (2) making it eligible for three of the honorary consulting physicians and surgeons to become Directors. With regard to the first part, the Governors at the last meeting were quite unanimous, while on the second point there was some considerable difference of opinion. The Directors would, however, cordially welcome to the Board members of the honorary consulting staff.

The Dalgleish Nurses' Home in connection with the Royal Infirmary, Dundee, is now fully occupied, and is proving a great boon to the nurses.

Hints to Amateurs.

In case of an unexpected chill from any cause, the patient should be put to bed with the never-failing hot-water bottle (one of india-rubber is best), and hot lemonade or coffee, or hot gruel should be given as a drink, in order to induce the skin to act; unless the difficulty is beyond home remedies, relief is sure to follow. Hot black coffee is always excellent when an immediate stimulant is required, as after a fainting fit or cramp, brought on by sea-bathing. After over-exertion a ten minutes' rub of alcohol and salt, followed by a complete rest and nourishing food, is frequently all the remedy required.

When a member of the family is taken seriously ill, and weeks of nursing are likely to follow, it is well to be aware of a few rules for home nursing, and set about putting them into practice in the most scientific manner possible. In the first place, put the room in order, quietly and dexterously, so that the patient may not be annoyed by any confusion. If the room is hot and stuffy, close the blinds and sprinkle them well with water, or if there are no blinds, hang up green cambric and keep it wet; the hot air passing through the wet curtain will be quickly cooled. Clear out all unnecessary furniture, draw the bed out into the room, and keep the patient as quiet as possible.

Never put down pillows on an invalid's bed. In hot climates especially, these add much to the discomfort of the patient. The wire woven pillows which may now be obtained are in such circumstances a real boon. Take off the heavy coverlet, should there be one, and keep the under-sheet drawn tight, so that there will be no wrinkles. In hot weather for fever cases it is refreshing to have the pillows changed several times during the day; so that one may be cooling and getting fresh while the other is in use.

Ice is another luxury not easily obtained in all places, and is one of the hardest things to do without. Where ice is needed for external use and cannot be obtained, a cloth wrung out of cold water and frequently changed can be used. Alcohol in the water, or poured on the cloth after it is wrung out, will tend to cool it. Sometimes bathing the face and hands with hot water—not warm—will prove more cooling than ice itself. The addition of some Rimmel's toilet vinegar or Florida water to this will be keenly appreciated as a rule, and undoubtedly renders the bathing much more refreshing. The patient should also be allowed to put his hands into the basin of water, and hold them over it while they are sponged. Ice keeps well wrapped in newspaper, and little bits can be chipped off as needed. It may also be wrapped in flannel, or kept in sawdust.

(To be continued.)

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