

The Hospital World.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

THE cogent and pathetic appeal of Mr. Sydney Holland in the *Times* on behalf of London's largest Hospital, should surely loosen the purse strings of the wealthy in the West End, and lift the committee of the London Hospital once for all out of the invidious position of being regarded as "something between a dun and a bore." It surely does not reflect credit upon the charity of this city that the chairman of its greatest hospital should be perpetually harassed for lack of £10,000 per annum, and we hope that this reproach will soon be removed. If Mr. Holland's letter does not bring in the required funds we fail to know what will, for he certainly has the art of appealing to all that is best in his audience. "People complain," says Mr. Holland, "that they are 'bothered' with constant appeals, but, apart from taking comfort in the thought that the postage of such appeals contributes largely to reduce general taxation, may I ask the recipients to remember that it is far more bother to send out appeals than to receive them. They need bear us no ill-will. It is a sufficiently disagreeable and odious work asking for money, and not a pleasant experience to be regarded as something between a 'dun' and a bore. But what are we to do? We cannot sit still and see all this misery and suffering which money can certainly lessen. We cannot sit still and see poor folk begging, not for bread, not for money, but for health. We cannot reply to these people, 'Go and die.'" Are there any who have money to give, who will keep their hold upon it after such an appeal? Mr. Holland also explains how more funds are required because "medicine and surgery make progress every year, new and expensive methods are discovered of treating disease, bacteriology, electricity, and photography are called in aid more and more. Nursing cannot be done as it used to be, because, thank goodness, managers of hospitals have realized that nurses are human, and that it is not fair to work young women, however willing, for more than ten to eleven hours in wards with sick people, every day of the seven."

The many improvements made in the arrangements for the nursing staff since Mr. Holland has been Chairman of the London Hospital, afford one of the weightiest arguments in favour of its increased support. There are still three important alterations which we desire to see before the organization of the nursing department can, in our opinion, be entirely satisfactory, but this is not a happy moment to call attention to them, as Mr. Holland has introduced so many reforms that we do not doubt that the rest will shortly follow. We heartily wish success to the appeal now being made on behalf of the London Hospital.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Some handsome donations have been received by the Lord Mayor for the Memorial Fund of the Duchess of Teck.

Sir William Turner, F.R.S., has been elected President of the General Medical Council. He has been a member of the Executive Committee for eleven years, and of the Business Committee for six. It is to be hoped he will inaugurate a new and more liberal policy in the management of its affairs.

Sir Samuel Wilks has been re-elected President of the Royal College of Physicians.

The London Hospital has received, in response to the special appeal now being made in aid of the Maintenance Fund, donations of £1000 from Lord Iveagh; £50 from the Duke of Bedford; £105 from Mr. Maurice Marcus; £105 from Messrs. James Shoolbred and Co.; £52 10s. from Messrs. Barclay, Perkins and Co.; £50 from Mr. David Cohen; £52 10s. from Mr. A. W. Gadesden, per the Lord Mayor; and a special donation from Mr. F. D. Moccatta of £50.

The Board of Management of the British Home for Incurables have received a donation of Twenty guineas from the Worshipful Company of Skinners.

A new hospital for hip diseases is about to be built on a site of three and a half acres at Tub's Hill, Sevenoaks, the present buildings in that town being quite inadequate.

At the recent annual meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women it was stated that, during the past year, the number of in-patients admitted was 315, a decrease of 30 on the previous year, and the total number of operations was 296, a decrease of 37. The number of abdominal sections performed was 137, 65 less than last year, and of this number 15 died, the death-rate, therefore, being 10.9 per cent. The Committee were of opinion that this percentage, though not higher than that attained in similar cases at many other hospitals was, nevertheless, considerably higher than it ought to be. A thorough investigation was consequently made at Sparkhill, which resulted in several alterations being made, and since the middle of October the death-rate had been about two per cent. The unanimous conclusion at which they, in conjunction with the medical staff, had arrived, was that the nursing staff required re-organizing. This had been done with a satisfactory result.

Mr. Arthur Chamberlain drew attention to the fact that, at the foundation of the institution, a strong point was made of the intention to admit patients—such as governesses, or shop assistants—who, while not possessing sufficient means to defray the entire cost of their illness, yet preferred to contribute towards it. He drew attention to the fact that while this class, and

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