

Wedding Gifts.

ON leaving the Birmingham General Hospital, of which she had been Matron for three years and a-half, Miss Zara Stevenson received a large number of handsome gifts, in appreciation of her work there, and as an expression of congratulation and good wishes on her approaching marriage with the Rev. Stanley G. Collier, M.A., amongst which were :—

A beautiful illuminated Address, in Royal Blue leather cover, expressing the congratulations and good wishes of the members of the Committee of Management, with a list of subscribers, together with a very handsome tea service (consisting of Queen Anne teapot, sugar basin, cream jug, tea caddy, tongs, and half-a-dozen tea spoons) in a polished oak case, lined with velvet, the teapot being engraved "To Miss Z. Stevenson, from the Committee of Management of the Birmingham General Hospital, April, 1898."

A silver salver and crumb scoop, the former engraved, "Miss Stevenson, from the Residents of Birmingham General Hospital, May, 1898."

A gold curb-patterned bracelet, with padlock and key, the padlock bearing inscription, "To Miss Stevenson, from the Nursing Staff."

A pair of silver serviette rings, in case, with monograms engraved, from the Servants and Porters."

A hammered copper oval tray from the Chaplain,
A silver shoe-horn from the Housekeeper.

As well as the following personal gifts from friends connected with the hospital and former nurses. A leather writing case, and leather jewel case, silver toast rack, preserve spoon, smelling salts bottle, pepper pot, and bon-bon dish, glass scent bottles, with silver tops, stud jar with silver top, case containing four silver salts, two pepper muffineers, and two mustard pots with spoons. An iron scroll table lamp with shades, a pair of brass candlesticks, and two iridescent glass vases.

Professional Review.

WILLIAM STOKES.

THE most recent addition to the series "Masters of Medicine" is the life of Dr. William Stokes, Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen in Ireland, by his son, Sir William Stokes. This series, as our readers will probably recollect is published by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, and the price of each volume is 3/6. The life of William Stokes records that of a chivalrous gentleman, devoted to his profession, but avoiding medical politics, his view being that "the man among us, who by his unselfish labour, adds one useful fact to the storehouse of medical knowledge, does more to advance

its material interests, than if he had spent a life in the pursuit of medical politics."

His idea of patriotism is embodied in the following remark: "To me, the real patriot is he who, in a life of labour and of trial, with integrity, practical wisdom, and far-seeing intelligence, labours onward to no other end but that his country shall rise, and with the honourable and justifiable ambition that, loving her, he may rise with her also."

It is doubtless for this reason that this master of medicine escaped the opposition, calumny, and misrepresentation, which seem to be the invariable portion of those who descend into the arena of politics. He lived a life full of earnest work, brilliant achievements, and deeds, and finally, in an honoured old age passed away, possessing the respect and affection of a wide circle of friends. It is good in these days of stress and storm to turn to such a life and breathe for awhile the peaceful and quiet atmosphere which pervades it.

The most noted of William Stokes' writings are his work on diseases of the chest, and that on diseases of the heart and aorta, and these are without doubt valuable contributions to medical literature. He is also noteworthy as having in conjunction with Dr. Robert Graves, whose views on the subject he enthusiastically supported, revolutionised the treatment of peritonitis by boldly administering opium in place of the treatment formerly adopted of bleeding and giving purgatives. It is also stated, by no less an authority than Mr. Edward Hamilton, then President of the Royal College of Surgeons, that it was William Stokes who laid, in Ireland, the foundation stone of clinical medicine, and that it was only when this had been achieved that the Irish School of Physic was able to take its position with the school in the sister country.

William Stokes' views on the necessity of a common fundamental education for both physicians and surgeons were wise and liberal. "The human constitution is one; there is no division of it into a medical and surgical domain; the same laws and the same principles apply to the cure of a fractured bone and the cicatrization of an internal ulcer. He, therefore, urged upon the heads of Dublin University the importance of extending the benefits of general education to the surgical as well as to the medical student. Up to his time the diploma of the University had not been obtained by any candidate who had not graduated in Arts and Medicine." Dr. Stokes urged that full degrees in Surgery should be conferred, having an equal rank with those of Medicine, and that candidates should be required to complete their education and graduate in Arts.

The law of Medical Ethics laid down by Dr. Stokes is chivalrous and honourable, and might with advantage be widely studied at the present time.

He pleads also for efficient medical education on the ground that "additional encouragement must be given to the students to obtain that education which can alone fit them to preserve the social position and rank of their profession, to use the words of a great surgeon, to keep it from degenerating into a trade, and the worst of trades."

The account of the great famine, and of epidemics of typhus fever and Asiatic Cholera will be read with interest, while, as is to be expected, in the life of an Irishman, several stories are related typical of the humour which is characteristic of the country.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)