

Bart., and seconded respectively by Sir Douglas Galton, F.R.S., Mr. W. H. Dickinson, and Miss Dendy. A vote of thanks to the Chairwoman moved by the Earl of Stamford, and seconded by Mr. R. Biddulph Martin, M.P., and a pathetic appeal from the Duchess of Sutherland to the audience to leave at least as much in the plate at the door as would cover the cost of the chairs they had occupied, concluded the proceedings.

The Association needs and deserves a generous support from the public, for it is doing a work that is calculated to diminish pauperism, vice, and crime. Homes for feeble-minded boys and girls of varying ages are being established under its auspices, and it is in other ways also helping forward the cause of the most helpless members of the community. The office of the Association is at 49, Victoria Street, S.W.

The Hon. Sydney Holland writes to the *Times* from the London Hospital:—"I have been appalled and sickened by a sight I have just seen at the London Hospital—a sight which convinces me that if the public could be brought to realise the terrible sufferings which are endured by a large number of women, children, and men in the Staffordshire Potteries, the misery would be ended. I have just left a poor woman, sitting quietly and patiently, resigned to her terrible fate, blinded for life by lead poisoning. By her side sat another girl nearly blinded by the same foul poison, but whose sight we hope to save. In another ward is a poor man suffering from epileptic fits due to the same cause, and the story they tell would simply not be believed if they did not bear on themselves the truth of their statement. Not one of these poor people are receiving any help from their employers."

Quoting a consulting chemist on the potteries the Hon. Sydney Holland says:—"The people have to choose between the risk of lead poisoning and the certainty of want or destitution.

And he goes on—"I suppose we shall continue to insist on having glazed plates, cost what it may in human suffering. This being so, surely it is only our simple duty to see that those who suffer are protected as far as possible by law and have some provision made for them if disaster comes. Lead poisoning does not come within the category of accidents under the Workmen's Compensation Act! This is an omission which I believe the country would gladly see made good."

The annual meeting of the Glasgow Hospital for Women was held recently in that city. The occasion was a specially noticeable one, inasmuch as the charity attained its majority, having completed the twenty-first year of its existence. The only qualifications for admission are the poverty of the patient, and the painful character of her disease. It was stated by Dr. Robert Bell, the senior surgeon, in his report, that over sixty patients were treated weekly at the hospital, and although during the past four years, 457 operations had been performed, the staff were in the happy position of not having had a single death to record during this period. The operations had comprised the most serious that come within the range of surgery. The financial statement showed that with a balance of £115 7s. 10½d. from the previous year, the income was £509 6s. 10½d. and that after meeting the liabilities there was a balance of £57 12s. 10d. in hand. This expenditure considering the amount of work done, appears to be extraordinarily small.

Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

Pages from an Englishman's Diary.

(Continued from page 305).

June 3rd.

THE day of inauguration of our nurses. The five girls came to the Hospital at 10, the hour appointed by Prof. T——. I presented each to him, and he handed them over to the Suore, to whom we had of course already recommended them. They all seemed equally pleased; the girls to be with the nuns, and the nuns to have such nice-mannered girls. They all begin in medical wards first, as the idea of "operations" at first frightens them.

We next spoke to the housekeeping Suore, who will give them their coffee in the morning, with bread and butter. Then took them to the Sister in the linen department, who looked out pinafores of various sizes, some of which can be made to fit at once by a tuck, whilst she promised to have new ones made of quite the right sizes.

June 6th.

Went with Dssa. G—— to the hospital at 9. The rounds were just finished, so Prof. T—— came with us to each ward. He is the Duchessa's own doctor, and took great care of her, not letting her go into one ward where there had been one or two cases of measles, for she has small children, and consequently it is plucky of her visiting the hospital at all; very few Italian mothers will. She spoke charmingly to the nuns, and to the girls; and I am most thankful that she will be able to undertake the girls "inspection" during the summer, as she stays on in one of her villas not very far out of Rome.

The nuns declared themselves satisfied with the pupils, and the latter looked very happy, and said everyone was very good to them. The wards are very full, and many cases are serious; so they are seeing enough to try them, and have plenty to do, going round always with one of the nuns or novices, bed-making, feeding, etc. They also stand by the sister in charge at rounds, they told us.

June 9th.

Sigra. C—— wrote last night to ask me to go with her to see Pssa. di S——, one of the Queen's ladies-in-waiting, at 8 this morning, as she wanted to talk to me about nursing. It was a very nurse-like hour for a visit! but one admires the energy which prompts people who are not nurses to begin work so early. We talked for more than an hour. Naples is her home, and she seems to be more practical than Barone T——. I asked her if she thought his schemes were likely to succeed, but she told me the girls educated in his school were of the lowest class, and not what I wanted for nurses. She told me she had desired to have a *Scuola infermiera* for several years, and had put it on the programme of instruction, aimed at in the great school for girls of which she is president, and foundress. I told her, of course, that it was absolutely futile attempting to train nurses anywhere out of Hospital, and she at once grasped the fact, though I think it was a new idea to her. She asked if I would go to her and help her start the training school for nurses, supposing she could get admission to a Hospital; and she offered me a home at the convent, which is now her huge school. It is strange that Pssa. di S—— should offer this just now that we have decided to leave the girls here for six months without my super-

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