

A new Infirmary was last week opened at Red Ruth. The ceremony being performed by Mrs. Beauchamp, wife of the Chairman of the Board of Guardians, who was presented with a silver key for the purpose by Mr. S. Hill, the architect. After inspecting the building a large company, including chairmen of other Boards of Guardians, had lunch in the lower ward, Mr. E. B. Beauchamp in the chair. After the loyal toasts, Mr. Rabling gave the toast of Mr. Preston Thomas, Local Government Board Inspector, who, in replying, said he was glad to be present with such an exceedingly harmonious Board. It was intense pleasure to him to find here what is an example not only to Cornwall, but to the West of England, in this thoroughly up-to-date hospital. It happened that among the 47 unions in his district there were only two infirmaries besides this built upon modern principles. The Guardians might be proud of setting an excellent example, which would be widely followed, and he congratulated them upon having raised the standard of administration, and in having made such a substantial contribution to the lessening of human suffering.

At a meeting of the General Committee of the Aberdeen Hospital Saturday Fund the Chairman announced that the balance available for allocation was £1,231 11s. 11d., a result which he considered very satisfactory. The Executive Committee suggested that the sum should be apportioned as follows:—Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, £600, Sick Children's Hospital, £150; Aberdeen Dispensary, £150; Aberdeen District Nursing Association, £65; Aberdeen Ophthalmic Institution, £50; Convalescent Hospital, £100; Hospital for Incurables, £50; Hospital for Incurables (Children), £10; total, £1,175; and this scheme was ultimately adopted.

At the Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee of the Board of Management of the Belfast Royal Hospital it was announced that the Hospital was in debt to the amount of £1,871 18s. 9d., although the greatest vigilance had been exercised in keeping down expenses consistent with efficiency. It was suggested that when the merchant princes had got over the raising of the £100,000 for the Royal Victoria Hospital they would be able to renew their subscriptions, and get up an endowment for it. The Chairman said that Mrs. Pirrie, the ex-Lady Mayoress, had already started an endowment fund for the new Hospital, and had received some very substantial promises.

The *Eclair* reports a terrible case resulting from army red-tapeism. A military cook at Vincennes was taken to the hospital suffering from burns on his arm. Before he could be attended to he developed a contagious fever, and was transferred to the infectious diseases ward, where he was kept isolated forty days. During all this time the doctor who treated him for the fever refused to attend to his injured arm, on the grounds that it was not his work, and that it was contrary to the army regulations. The result is that the man is now so ill that his arm will have to be amputated, and fears are expressed that he will succumb to blood-poisoning. Surely the doctor at the fever hospital will be called to account for not calling in a colleague whose work it was to attend to the burns, but even so this will not give back to the man the arm, which has to be amputated, as the result of the callous neglect of his sufferings.

Our American Letter.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE nursing of our sick and wounded soldiers is now beginning to take a shape which can be recognised and described. Like much else in this short but active war, nursing affairs had not been arranged for very far ahead, nor planned out on a systematic schedule. With the outbreak of hostilities came a rush of volunteer aid from all over the country, and in the first confusion and excitement it might almost have seemed as if relief-offering agencies were rivals in the field, competing with one another for the honor of being called on in emergency. First and foremost of course stood the Red Cross, recognised the world over as the agency authorised by nations to aid and succour on the battlefield, and in camps and war hospitals; and, in America, by force of the "American Amendment" authorised also to relieve suffering and distress from famine, pestilence, or unusual calamity. One could hardly dispute the claim of the Red Cross to be the channel through which all auxiliary efforts should be turned, and its structure allows the formation of branch societies, of which there are indeed a number, and many new ones sprang up ready to affiliate and co-operate in the best way.

But other societies, unwilling to lose their own individuality, and perhaps, also, unwilling to subordinate themselves, went to work independently, and instead of the strength and smoothness gained by uniting forces, there has been a certain amount of the confusion and friction caused by the multiplication of agencies. The Daughters of the American Revolution obtained from Surgeon-General Sternberg authority to select nurses for army service and, upon his call, to place them in the hospitals which he designated. The Red Cross, meantime, acting under its National powers, was preparing to supply nurses as needed, and these two societies were at direct variance. Later, in New-York, a powerful auxiliary to the Red Cross was organized for the purpose of maintaining nurses in the field, under the management of prominent women among whom were Mrs. Winthrop Cowdin and Mrs. Whitelaw Read. This society, known as "Red Cross Auxiliary No. 3," applied to Gen. Sternberg also, to be called upon when nurses were needed, and received his official consent to their recognition for this purpose. This occasioned a fresh contest which was ended in the most sensible and satisfactory manner by the union of the "Daughters" and the Red Cross Auxiliary, so that now their united strength is devoted to the one work. The immediate occasion which brought about this union was the urgent need at Chickamauga, where typhoid fever is epidemic. On these large camps, where our men are established on our own soil, there seems less excuse for disease—especially preventible disease like typhoid—and for the conditions resulting from a lack of skilled nursing, by far, than in Cuba, where the difficulties encountered have rendered sanitation and nursing almost impossible. The Red Cross agent stationed at Chickamauga to distribute supplies, has urged, in reports and letters, the need of trained nurses; but, it is to be remembered, not even the Red Cross has power to bring nurses into an army hospital unless requested by the army department to do so. The Surgeon-General believes that women nurses are out of place at the front and in field hospitals, and at Chickamauga and Camp Alger the entire nursing done, so far, has been by the army corps of attendants and orderlies,

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