

The *Shrewsbury Chronicle* states that Bridgnorth Rural District Council have, at several meetings, been discussing the provision of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, and have been trying to solve the problem in the cheapest possible way. Finding at last that they must face a minimum expenditure of £100 per annum, they have shelved the whole question, in tender regard for the ratepayers' pockets. Our contemporary enquires: Is this a fair interpretation of their duty, as the sanitary authority created by law to guard the health of a large number of people? If they had resolved that there was no need for a hospital, one could have understod the decision, however much one might be inclined to disagree with it; but to gravely discuss at several meetings how to supply a want which seems to be admitted, and then back out of the question simply on the ground of expense, is not very creditable.

The new Northern Hospital, Liverpool, is now practically complete, though two years may still elapse before the new hospital altogether takes the place of the old. The new building will have 200 beds and a commodious nurses' house. The funds for its erection have been provided by the bequest of £60,000 from the David Lewis Trustees, who, in making it, intimated to the hospital authorities that they would expect them to take the requisite steps to raise such further funds as would put the institution and its finances in a sound and secure position. This was done by a grant of £10,000 from the Corporation and by public subscriptions, and the work was quickly set in hand.

The town council of Morpeth have adopted plans prepared by their sanitary inspector, Mr. W. F. Curry, for converting the Grand Stand on the common into an infectious diseases hospital. The Medical Officer of Health stated to the Council that the proposals were on the lines of model plans prepared by the Local Government Board.

The Duke of Devonshire, when laying the memorial-stone of the new hospital at Keighley last Saturday, said that:—"In all they might attempt to do to benefit their fellow citizens, whether it was political, educational, or religious work, and however many points they might agree upon, there would sure to be almost as great a number of points of difference; but in attending to the needs of the sick and wounded and dying, and doing something to mitigate their sufferings they were standing upon a common ground, on which men of every class could work together without fear of conflict or difference. It was difficult to estimate how great and salutary the influence upon life and the happiness of our fellow citizens might depend upon this possibility of union. Providence had enabled us by the advance of the knowledge of science and medical skill to do much to alleviate the suffering which was the lot of the human race, and he thought it must be the pleasure of all, as undoubtedly it was the duty of all, to help in affording the best skill and advice to those who needed it, whatever might be their rank or class."

THE Alvarenga prize of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has been awarded to Dr. S. A. Knopf, of New York, for his essay, entitled, "Modern Prophylaxis of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and its Treatment in Special Institutions at Home."

Our Foreign Letter.

IN AN ITALIAN HOSPITAL.

Pages from an Englishwoman's Diary.

(Continued from page 104).

26th July, 1895.

A KIND letter from Dssa. G— about the girls. She says they are "happy, contented, and have lessons twice a week in the nuns' rooms from one of the doctors, together with the young nuns, and the other *infermiere*."

She spoke to each Sister when the girls were not present, and they all said they were pleased with them, finding them "very attentive, and most kind towards the patients, as well as obedient to them."

Clotilde also wrote thanking again for what we give her, and hoping that "some day she will be able to prove the gratitude which fills her heart."

She too says they find themselves "very happy in the new career they have undertaken (*nuova via intrapresa*), striving to learn, so as to become capable of usefulness, and of diminishing some of the suffering."

Anyhow, the patients will gain greatly by having these sweet-mannered girls to fill in the gaps left by the often over-busy *infermiere*. And that all should work peacefully and happily at the beginning is a great blessing.

I hear from Naples that Barone T— has given up the idea of a "nurses' school" for the present. So I am free to go to Pssa. di S—, who writes that the Direttore of the little — Hospital puts a ward at our disposal "with enthusiasm," and is anxious that I should go as soon as possible. This sounds most promising, but . . . ? However, we shall see. I have answered, they can expect me the beginning of September.

August 31st, Rome.

I am sleeping a night here, so as to get two days to see my girls. I came by the night train; it is really the pleasantest time to travel now; the days are rather stifling. It was hot already when I arrived at 7.30, and driving to this quiet hotel, I found a still hotter room. However, after coffee and ablutions I went to the Hospital, though by then it was ten, and the sun was blazing, and the air—or want of it—oppressive. The girls seem to have stood the heat well though, except poor Marietta, who was absent with an attack of fever, her friends said. The others looked well, and seemed perfectly happy, saying how much they liked nursing, and how fond they were of the nuns, and of the patients. For the moment this is what most matters, that they should work happily as part of the Hospital family: and Professor T— told me all had gone satisfactorily. They were all good girls, and the nuns found them intelligent and willing, whilst the patients were always singing their praises. We arranged for them to be moved to different wards; two to be put in the surgical one, the others to do afternoon duty instead of morning.

After lunch and a little rest I went to see the only friend who has remained in Rome (Madame H—). She goes to her dispensary all the morning, and says it has never been too hot in Rome, as the evenings are so pleasant. Certainly it was very bearable in her villa garden, where we had supper; but directly one entered the town the air felt heavy, and my little room is baking. I wonder how it will be at Naples.

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