

On the recommendation of Commander Wells, steps are being taken to bring the fire extinguishing apparatus at St. Bartholomew's Hospital up to date. A complete instalment of the appliances is being effected. In the Sisters' rooms, wherever practicable, brickwork has been substituted for woodwork, on each landing a supply of water is to be kept ready for use, and every ward has been fitted with a "corridor fire pump." The hospital has also been connected with Whitecross Street Fire Station, so that in the event of a serious outbreak, assistance could be immediately summoned by telephone. The hospital authorities are also taking into consideration the employment of a permanent fireman. It is most important, and doubtless will form one of the improvements, that the nurses should be thoroughly drilled in the use of the appliances for extinguishing fire.

In the south wing of the hospital numerous alterations have been recently completed. A new heating and ventilating apparatus has been fixed, new bedsteads and bedding have been provided, new cooking ranges have been fixed in the kitchen, and the wards and staircases have been redecorated.

The Rev. Herbert J. E. Barter, Chaplain to the North Eastern Hospital, St. Ann's Road, N., is appealing in the press that the patients in fever hospitals, more especially in the one to which he ministers, shall be remembered at Christmas. He pleads for games, toys, suitable literature (not ancient sermons and tracts, says this practical parson) and holly and flowers for the wards, of which there are twenty-five.

The Ladies' Theatrical Guild assembled last week at the Lyceum Theatre, when a most satisfactory report was presented by its honorary secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Charles Carson. Mrs. Oscar Beringer spoke warmly of the good work accomplished by Mrs. Carson, who had found the way to help the poor and proud of the profession, who had the sensitiveness and pride which belong to the unsuccessful. Mrs. Kendal distributed badges to the members and said a few kindly words to each recipient.

The General Hospital, Birmingham, has published an interesting statistical report of the In-patients admitted to the Hospital during the past year. The number of in-patients during the year was 4,421, and of out-patients 54,217. Since the first opening of the hospital the in-patients have numbered 228,040, and the out-patients 1,677,427.

The Birmingham General Hospital has received a legacy of £1000 from Mr. Charles Allcock, formerly of the firm of Wood and Allcock, Smethwick.

THE Duchess of Argyll's bazaar in Glasgow, in aid of the Argyllshire Nursing Association, realised £5,362.

It reported that Prince George of Greece intends as soon as possible to build a hospital for the relief and treatment of the lepers in Crete, of whom there are about 2,000.

It is interesting to know that in various parts of the world work amongst lepers is being carried on to the

great benefit of this sorely afflicted and suffering class. In the island of Zanzibar, Dr. Spurrier is working for the relief of these pitiful people of whom there are many, and this month some interesting pictures have been published in *Mercy and Truth*, of scenes in the Leper Asylum at Pakhoi. Native assistants, themselves lepers, are trained to wait upon their fellow sufferers, and to do the necessary dressings. The youngest patient is only eight years old, and has been in the Asylum for a year and a half. It is inexpressibly sad to think that children of this age should have such a heritage of woe.

The Royal National Mission to the Deep Sea Fishermen, is doing good and useful work amongst this hard working section of the community, whose lot is a laborious and perilous one. Amongst other work for their welfare, hospitals have been built and equipped in four vessels, and a specially devised stretcher has been placed on each ship to facilitate the removal of the injured to the hospital ships. All the mission skippers and mates, and many of the men, are trained in ambulance work, and are capable of rendering first aid to the wounded, thus saving much suffering and even limbs and lives, where medical assistance is not at hand. The Mission does not confine its work to the British Isles, for two hospitals have been built in Labrador, 200 miles apart. A Matron and a medical mission is attached to each of these, and through the long winters the hospitals are kept open, while some members of the staff travel with dogs and sleighs teaching the children and preaching when possible.

The friends of Nobel who contested the rights of his bequest to found scientific prizes have been satisfied with a share of the money, amounting to 3,800,000 Swedish crowns (about £200,000), leaving 25,000,000 crowns (over a million sterling) for the prizes. These are to be awarded annually to persons who make the best contributions to physics, chemistry, physiology, and medicine. There will also be a literary prize for a work on physiology or medicine. Each prize will be worth about £3,000.

The usual interesting resolution dealing with measures for exterminating wild animals and snakes in India, is published. In 1897, 4,277 persons were killed by wild animals and 20,959 by snakes. Bengal claiming 2,210 and 10,723; the North-West Provinces 701 and 4,549; and Madras 234 and 1,872 respectively of these totals. In Burma 109 were killed by animals and 517 by snakes. Nearly 1,000 more persons were killed by animals than in the preceding year, the increase being specially noticeable in Bengal, where it is reported famine was largely responsible for driving people into the jungles, while tigers were forced into the open parts by the scarcity of water.

The late Mr. Ernest Hart was a well-known Oriental expert, and his collection will be sold at Christie, Manson, and Woods' on Monday, the 12th instant, and four following days. It includes Japanese metal work, ivories, wood carvings, lacquer, arms, porcelain, and drawings by celebrated artists of the fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. There are also a number of fine specimens of Chinese porcelain.

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