

Annotations.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY was well observed in the Metropolis on Sunday last, and the offertories made in 180 places of worship should, with Mr. George Herring's gift of £10,000, bring the £50,000 required, within measurable distance.

The sermon at St. James's, Piccadilly, was preached by the Archbishop of Canterbury; at Westminster Abbey, the morning preacher was Canon Wilberforce, and the afternoon Dr. Alexander, Archbishop of Armagh, who, in speaking of the moral aspect of the mystery of pain, said that some of it was penal and deserved, but of other pain it could be said that it was in a sense sacramental. "Without pain," a great German philosopher had written, "is no man noble." At St. Paul's Cathedral, the afternoon preacher was the Bishop of Stepney.

A new departure was, that by an arrangement with the Electrophone Company, a service was established between some of the leading churches and chapels and hospital wards, the entire cost being borne by the company. By this means, patients in the institutions connected were able, while lying in bed, to listen to some popular preachers.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.

It is a noteworthy proof of the faith of the German people in the fresh-air treatment of consumption, that they are willing to invest large sums of money in establishing sanatoria. It is not, we think, generally known that in Germany insurance against sickness and old age is compulsory upon all whose annual income does not amount to £150; or, further, that the law permits insurance companies to devote a portion of their funds to the treatment of the sick in lieu of sick pay. Some of these insurance companies conceived the idea, based on calculations, that if out of 500 consumptives 140 could be so far restored to health as to do without sick pay it would be worth their while to build and maintain sanatoria of their own. Accordingly, in 1898, between £150,000 and £200,000 were spent in this way, and one company has published interesting statistics showing that out of 1,541 phthisical patients, 71 per cent. were restored to their working capacity, while the disease progressed in less than 7 per cent. of the cases.

The German treatment of phthisis seems to be singularly successful, and the country now

possesses some fifty sanatoria for the treatment of the disease. It would appear, however, that the good results obtained, are due not to any special virtue in the climate, for at Nordrach, in the Black Forest, one of the most successful of these sanatoria, the air, though pure, is not very dry, nor is there an unusual amount of sunshine. Indeed, a patient who went there, and came away cured, describes the climate as "damp and horrid." The success of the treatment seems to lie in the fact that the open-air life is insisted on to the utmost, and that the exercise, rest, and amount of food taken by each patient, is regulated by the Director, who presides at the table and personally encourages his patients to feats of digestion.

It is further noticeable, that neither elevation above the sea, dryness of air, warmth, nor evenness of temperature, are necessary to recovery. The two essentials are air and sunshine, and the lesson to be learnt from these facts, is, that both pure air and sunshine are attainable in this country, and there is no necessity to condemn to exile in a strange land, those near and dear to us, but that steps should be taken to organize extensively in the British Isles, sanatoria on the lines of those which have proved so successful in Germany.

"NURSING IN THE TROPICS."

MAJOR RONALD ROSS last week delivered an inaugural lecture to the nurses of the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, on the subject of "Nursing in the Tropics." The subject is a most interesting one, and one on which much misconception prevails. For instance, it is not unknown to see training in a fever hospital mentioned as specially qualifying a nurse for the care of malarial patients, whereas in point of fact there is no similarity between our own infectious fevers and the malarial fever common in the tropics. As up to the present there has been no school of tropical diseases for nurses, those who have undertaken work abroad have had perforce to gain their experience in the course of their work. It is therefore of great value to those who intend to proceed abroad to know that there is now a school in this country in which experience may be gained in the nursing of tropical diseases, more especially as a severe case of malarial fever taxes all the resources of those most experienced in it, and it is asserted with much truth that a nurse who can nurse well a bad case of malaria can nurse anything.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)