

## The Hospital World.

### THE ROYAL ISLE OF WIGHT INFIRMARY.

THE Queen opened the new Children's Wing of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary in person on Friday last, and the town and hospital were most gaily decorated for the occasion.

The hospital is on the high ground to the North of the town, and is surrounded by a pleasure garden. It is a bright and cheerful-looking building, in this respect fully realising the modern ideas as to what should be the appearance of an institution devoted to the alleviation of human suffering. The new children's wing owes its origin to her Majesty's Jubilee. At a public meeting, convened by the late Deputy Governor, Mr. A. Harbottle Estcourt, held at Newport in February, 1897, a Committee was appointed to carry into effect a resolution unanimously passed at the meeting to erect and endow a children's ward in the hospital which should commemorate the sixtieth year of her Majesty's reign. An appeal was made to the public to provide the £6,000 needed for the endowment of a ward of ten beds, and it met with so generous a response that the Committee was enabled to enlarge its original plans and construct a more extensive and more useful building than that first contemplated.

The children's ward, with the large sun-room, bath-room, entrance lobby, and other provisions, is on the ground floor of the new block. The ward, a handsome, bright room, is 45 feet long, 24 feet wide, and 12 feet high, these dimensions allowing 1,080 cubic feet of space to each of the ten cots. On its South side is a glass-roofed verandah. The walls are of cement, painted and varnished, and the floor of narrow teak planks, oak polished. It certainly seems an ideal place for a sick child. The light colouring of the walls and the scarlet screens which divide the little cots afford a cheerful scheme of colour. On the first floor are the bed-rooms for the nurses, bath-rooms and linen cupboard.

Five cots, the Battenberg, Worsley, Gassiot, Davey, and Polson, named after the principal donors, have already been endowed with £1,000 each, and another, called the Mothers' cot, will shortly be endowed with the subscriptions collected by Mr. Menzie. In the South wall is inscribed the memorial stone which Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor of the Isle of Wight and President of the Hospital, laid in August, 1897.

Upon her arrival at the Hospital, the Queen was met by Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor of the Isle of Wight, and a loyal address setting forth that the erection of the Children's Wing was in celebration of her Majesty's Jubilee, was read.

To this her Majesty replied: "I thank you for your loyal address. It gives me great satisfaction to open the Children's Wing of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital. I have never ceased to watch with great interest the growing usefulness of this institution, and I am gratified to see that special provision has now been made to extend to children the benefits which older patients have enjoyed. I am glad to associate the event with the completion of the sixtieth year of my reign, and I receive with pleasure your renewed expression of attachment to my throne and person."

Hymn No. 368 in "Hymns Ancient and Modern" was then sung by the choir, and the Bishop of Winchester offered a prayer. The architect handed to Princess Henry of Battenberg an elegant little case, which the Princess presented to the Queen. Her Majesty, holding this, completed an electric circuit, and the doors of the new wing flew open, and the ceremony was completed.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



PRINCESS CHRISTIAN of Schleswig-Holstein last week distributed medals and certificates to the members of the Isle of Wight centre of St. John Ambulance Association, of which she is President, and afterwards presented the boys of the Isle of Wight College with their prizes in connection with the aquatic sports.

Mr. L. E. Raphael has sent a donation of £1,000 to St. Mary's Hospital for the endowment of a bed.

Mr. Guntrip King has been appointed Secretary to the Samaritan Free Hospital, in the place of Mr. George Scudamore, who has retired owing to prolonged ill-health.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday, the estimated expenditure for the half-year ending Lady Day, 1900, according to the Finance Committee's report, exceeded the amount of the corresponding half-year of 1899 by £47,000, but it was reported that no increase in the rate would be necessary, owing partly to annual increase in the rateable value and partly to the carrying forward of a larger balance than that of the previous half-year. The clerk reported an increase of 199 in the number of infectious cases under treatment in the Board's hospitals. The Hospitals Committee in their report stated that they were unable to obtain a sufficient number of nurses, and powers were given to the committee to take measures necessary to secure nurses.

Considerable interest was manifested in the departure of the steamship *Fantee* for the Grand Canary and West Coast of Africa from Liverpool, on Saturday. Among the passengers were a number of medical

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