

The Hospital World.

GALA DAY AT THE LONDON.

ON Tuesday, the new College Buildings of the London Hospital were opened by Lord Knutsford, in the presence of a large assembly gathered together in the Library of the Medical College, and subsequently the prizes were presented to the students and nursing probationers by Lord and Lady Knutsford.

Speaking of the Medical School, Lord Knutsford said it was essential for the welfare of the East End of London that this school should be kept up to the highest degree of efficiency. Did his hearers realize what sickness in the homes of that crowded district meant? Illness and disease there meant such misery and trouble that, except for the kindness of the poor to each other at such times, it would be unbearable. To deal with all the sickness amongst these people the London Hospital stood alone as the only general East End hospital. It was, therefore, essential that the work of the medical school should be kept up—the efficiency of the hospital depended on it.

The expense of medical education at the present time was very great; teaching was an art, and demanded the entire services of medical men who were adepts in the art of teaching. Then there were great advances in surgery, in medicine, in preventive medicine, and the London Hospital had the best equipped bacteriological department in the country. But all these were costly. This was not the time to discuss whether the State should not step in, and relieve the hospitals of part of the expenditure.

The medical students then received their prizes and certificates, after which Lady Knutsford presented the prizes and certificates to the following nurses:—

1st Prize.—Probationer Ethel Bamford.

2nd Prize.—Probationer Isabella Kathleen Grant.

3rd Prize.—Probationer Ethel Pearson.

Honorary Certificates—

Probationer	Ellen Minchin
"	Mary Lindsay Harper.
"	Ethel Mary Sleight.
"	Eveline Dickinson.
"	Susan Adair.
"	Angelina Corinna Dent.
"	Kate Roberts.

The Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the Hospital, in introducing the nurses, said that their examination was very severe. The examination was not conducted by members of their own staff, because they were afraid they might err on the side of over kindness to the nurses. They, therefore, enlisted the service of

outside examiners, and he was happy to say that this set of nurses had done particularly well. He attributed this to the fact that they not only had the lectures of the staff and the Matron, but also small study classes with the Sisters who went over the lectures with them. Their aim was not that the book work done should qualify the nurses to pass a medical examination, but that what they learnt should be of use to them during the whole of their nursing career. He knew all the nurses who had won the prizes, and he knew that they would be both good women and good nurses as long as they remained in their profession.

Mr. Holland then spoke of the difficulty of doing the work which had to be done in the old building, and said a crisis came to every institution, and it had come to them. They could not say to the nurses that they could not have fair hours off duty, nor to the students that they could not afford to give them the best education, nor to the staff that they could not afford the remedies prescribed, nor could they say to the poor sick people who came to them for treatment, "Go away, and come back again when you are nearer death," and so they had determined upon an expenditure of £200,000. They were going to raise the whole building two stories, and to add maternity wards, new Jewish wards, a proper pathological department, a new nurses' home, instead of having their nurses in lodgings about Whitechapel, an isolation block, and the most magnificent operating theatres in the whole of England, and a proper electrical department. Mr. Holland then invited his audience not to mind risking their best clothes, but to walk round the hospital and see where they did their work now. They would, he thought, come to the conclusion that the proposed additions were absolutely necessary.

Lady Knutsford, in presenting the prizes to the nurses, spoke of the deep interest she took in the London Hospital, and said she was glad of this opportunity of congratulating the prize winners, and those who had passed their final examination, that the foundation of knowledge was now securely laid.

After a vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Knutsford, the visitors adjourned to the garden, where they had tea, and some were fortunate enough to visit the "Garden of Eden," the special domain of the nurses, where cool fountains, shady trees, restful hammocks, and doves, ducks, and other delights abound. One wondered if it was really true that one was in the heart of Whitechapel. The garden is well named, and must be an altogether delightful retreat for tired nurses. Their sitting room also is all that can be desired in the way of comfort.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)