

**Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund.**

THE Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund for London, to commemorate the 60th year of the Queen's reign, has this year received in contributions about £9,000 more than in previous years, which is, so far, satisfactory. We have every sympathy with efforts to provide for our hospitals the financial assistance which, in many instances, they most urgently need. We must, however, point out that serious defects in the organization of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund are that, so far, no woman has been appointed a member of the Council, and no trained nurse has been invited to act on the Visiting Committee to report on the condition of nursing in the hospitals assisted by the Fund, although the efficiency of the nursing department is quite as important as that of the medical and secretarial departments of a hospital. It seems an extraordinary anomaly that women should be entirely ignored on the Council of a Fund founded to commemorate the virtues of a woman; moreover, there are many details in connection with the workings of this Fund upon which their advice would be of the utmost value. We regard the inspection of the nursing departments of hospitals by a member of the Visiting Committee, qualified by practical experience for this duty, as a most essential part of its work. The *raison d'être* of all hospitals is to afford efficient medical treatment and nursing care for the sick, and where the former exists without the latter, the good it is able to effect is, to a great extent, nullified, as may be seen in some continental hospitals at the present day, where the scientific treatment of the sick is quite up-to-date, but where the nursing arrangements are of an obsolete type, and the need of the introduction of modern methods of nursing, in the interests of the sick, is most apparent. On the efficiency of the nursing, indeed, depends to a great extent the reputation of a hospital. When the Matron is efficient, the nursing good, and discipline maintained, the comfort of the patients is secured, and the institution a popular one. On the other hand, if there is laxity in the nursing department, the prestige of the whole institution suffers in consequence. Lastly, it is entirely owing to the work of women that nursing has been raised to the degree of efficiency to which it has attained to-day. Any system of inspection on behalf of the Prince's Fund, therefore, which does not include the expert inspection of the nursing departments of hospitals, cannot be regarded as satisfactory. We are of opinion that, until women are accorded representation on the Council of this Fund, they would do well to abstain from supporting it.

**Army Nursing Notes.**

THE Princess of Wales has become the President of a movement to provide a hospital for the Yeomanry at Cape Town, and the Duchess of Connaught and the Duchess of York are enrolled as Vice-Presidents. The scheme was originated by Lady Georgiana Curzon, and the Hon. Secretary is Viscount Curzon, M.P., 20, Curzon Street, and the Treasurer, Mr. L. Neumann, 11, Grosvenor Square. The sum of £30,000 was originally asked for, but besides other large donations a gift of £50,000 has already been received from Messrs. Wernher, Beit and Co.

Mr. John L. Langman, of 6, Stanhope Terrace, Hyde Park, W., has offered to provide and equip a field hospital of 100 beds, to be placed on the lines of communication. This offer has been accepted by the War Office.

The hospital provided by Lord Iveagh for the lines of communication, is to be known as the Irish Hospital.

At home, in response to an enquiry from the War Office as to the help which could be given by general hospitals if necessary towards the reception of sick and wounded sailors and soldiers, many Committees have expressed their willingness to place beds at the disposal of the Government. The Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital have placed fifty beds, free of charge, at the disposal of the War Office, as well as beds at the Convalescent Home at Swanley. The Edinburgh Infirmary has offered a hundred beds, and Paisley has offered the Coats' Pavilion of the New Infirmary, Mr. Peter Coats undertaking to defray all the costs for one year. Lord Hopetoun has offered the west wing of his house overlooking the Firth of Forth for hospital purposes.

An offer to arrange the medical and nursing staff and commissariat department in connection with convalescent homes for officers in Madeira has been made by some English ladies in London, who wish their identity to remain unknown for the present.

Sir Sydney Waterlow, formerly Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and President of the British Hospital, Cannes, has offered to provide beds there for convalescent officers with the best medical attendance.

Now that more troops are being sent out to South Africa, additional arrangements are being made for the nursing of the wounded. The

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