

The Hospital World.**BRITISH HOME AND HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, STREATHAM.**

AN invitation to the Annual General Meeting of this Home on Thursday in last week, afforded an opportunity of seeing the Institution, of which the **NURSING RECORD** availed itself. In the unavoidable absence of Earl Amherst, President of the Society, Mr. Francis A. Bevan, Chairman of the Board of Management, presided.

The meeting was held in the new Recreation Hall, a fine addition to the Home. At the further end is a well arranged stage, from which, no doubt, many entertainments will be given to the inmates. The body of the Hall is amply large enough to contain all who are likely to be present, and at the further end is a gallery.

In moving the adoption of the Annual Report, the Chairman drew attention to the progress which has been made during the past year. A Royal Charter has been granted to the Charity by the Queen in Council. The foundation-stone of the New Wing, now approaching completion, was laid by the President on May 30th, 1899. On December 4th, a new window in the Chapel was unveiled by the Lady Mayoress, and the Recreation Hall has been added.

The adoption of the Report was seconded by Major Dundas, supported by Lieut.-General Sir Francis Norman, K.C.B., and carried unanimously.

Formal business as to the re-election of officers concluded the meeting, and the visitors received a cordial invitation to adjourn to tea, and inspect the premises, of which many availed themselves.

The wards for the patients contain five beds in each, and large and cheery day-rooms are also provided for their use. For those who are able to get out of doors, the well-kept grounds, and the terrace, afford, in the summer time, a most pleasant opportunity.

The new Chapel, the interior of which is of dull brick of warm terra cotta colour, came in for a share of admiration. It is remarkable in having no fittings in the way of seats, so that the chairs of helpless patients can be wheeled into it. The whole arrangements of the building are designed with the utmost consideration for the patients, who all seem happy and comfortable. That this is a triumph for the authorities, all those who have had to do with incurables will agree, for the "dire compulsion of infertile days," with no prospect of relief until the advent of "Death the Consoler," makes many a patient who really appreciates the care he receives, querulous and fretful. None of this feeling, however, is present, or, at least, apparent, in the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, Streatham.

The Medical Graduates' College.*The Story of Robben Island, told by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, F.R.C.S.*

THE members of the Polyclinic and Medical Graduates' College, 22, Chenies Street, W.C., issued invitations to a most enjoyable conversation on Saturday last. One of the most pleasant features of the entertainment was the narration of the story of Robben Island by Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson. Story telling, if a rare, is not yet a lost art, this no one who was present on Saturday afternoon can doubt. The melodious voice, the flow of language, the thread of argument running through the story, the warm sympathy of Mr. Hutchinson for the unfortunate people whose tale he told, all combined to rivet the attention of his audience and to keep them spell-bound. No written report can convey the absorbing interest of the story, which will long remain in the memories of those who heard it.

Robben Island, said Mr. Hutchinson, is a desert island covered with white sand and seaweed, to the west of Cape Town. Its population includes the members of a convict prison, of the leper settlement, of a lunatic asylum, and the inhabitants of the island, who in 1894 had amongst them 100 children, besides 14 children living in the leper establishment.

There is also on the island an establishment for the quarantine of dogs, and every dog going to South Africa has to undergo four months' quarantine before being allowed to land at the Cape. So far, rabies is a disease unknown there, and the authorities do not intend that it shall be introduced.

Leprosy in South Africa is a comparatively new disease, and it is only 70 years ago since any segregation was first attempted. This was introduced by the Moravian Missionaries at a place called "Himmel in Erden" (heaven on earth), and was entirely voluntary. Later, the Government realized the difficulty of enforcing strict segregation on the mainland, and instituted a settlement on Robben Island, and in 1892 a law was passed making compulsory the residence on this island of all certified lepers in the Colony. Formerly also lepers from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were sent to Robben Island. The conditions under which they lived are strikingly illustrated by the fact which transpired during the course of a Governmental enquiry, that all the attendants and police on duty at the leper settlement were armed with revolvers. Upon the medical officer of the institution being asked if this were usual in a hospital, he replied "no, but leper establishments were places for the

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