

Annotations.

A CHANGE FOR A MILLIONAIRE.

On Monday last the Prince of Wales presided over a special general Court of Governors at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, convened for the purpose of receiving a report from the Treasurer and Almoners concerning the negotiations which have taken place for the acquisition of a portion of the site of Christ's Hospital. The removal of this historic school from the centre of London has been known for many years to be a question of time, and many have been the dreams at St. Bartholomew's as to what would happen when this much-desired event took place. The nurses have dreamt of a Nurses' Home to which they could point with pride, as worthy of their much loved hospital, and of the removal of the necessity for maintaining a discreet silence on this subject. The medical staff and students—well the workings of the medical mind are not always an open book—still, we have reason to believe, that they dreamt of a Medical College, and scientific departments galore. And now—and now—we learn that at the end of 20 years of dreams, a meagre acre-and-a-half is all that the hospital can hope to acquire and it is even uncertain if the authorities of Christ's Hospital will consent to part with this.

We heartily endorse the opinion expressed by the Prince of Wales that it is a matter of absolute necessity that this one and a half acres of land should be acquired, and that he would be glad to see the whole site obtained. He supported a resolution moved by Sir Sydney Waterlow that "if the offer of £117,000 be not accepted, the aid of Parliament should be invoked," and hoped that they would be backed by the Charity Commissioners and that Parliament would not refuse what was for the benefit of this public institution.

We go even further and say that it appears to us that the acquisition of this site is a matter of life and death to this grand old institution, for should it be acquired for commercial purposes and covered with high buildings, there is no doubt that St. Bartholomew's Hospital would be deprived of the light and air hygienically essential in an up-to-date hospital, and its days would probably be numbered. We can therefore but hope that every effort will be made to secure the site, and that Parliament will, in the public interest, support the Governors.

MEDICAL WOMEN ADVANCE.

It is satisfactory to learn that two resident posts have been thrown open to women at the Royal Free Hospital. This hospital has led the way in affording opportunities for study to women medical students, and the logical sequence is that a certain proportion of these students should be able to hold interne appointments upon qualification. It is only by this means that newly-qualified practitioners can obtain the valuable practical clinical experience which is so eagerly sought after, and which can qualify them for taking a high position in their profession. It must, therefore, always be creditable to the Royal Free Hospital that it has been the first general London Hospital to accord this measure of justice to women. The announcement was made at the annual prize distribution at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, held last week in the new buildings of the School in Handel Street, Brunswick Square, and was received with much enthusiasm. Mrs. Garrett Anderson the Dean of the School expressed the delight felt by all connected with the medical education of women, and this feeling will be shared by all those who desire the removal of the disabilities under which women are now suffering.

HOMES FOR THE POOR.

The housing problem was the subject of discussion at the Congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild, held at Woolwich last week, under the presidency of Mrs. Hodgett, Vice-President of the Guild. The question arose as to whether co-operative societies should build and let houses, or, whether they should spend their surplus capital in buying up and managing house property in the interests of poor tenants. Eventually it was decided that the Congress should urge upon the branches the desirability of co-operating with educational committees in dealing with the housing problem, and that special attention should be paid to the different systems of co-operative housing, and to the action of co-operators with regard to municipal housing. It is good that the most important question of the housing of the poor should be considered from a practical point of view by so influential a body of women as the Women's Co-operative Guild. Women are in a position to give valuable advice and assistance in the solution of this most burning and difficult question, and legislators will do well to consult with them before taking definite action.

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