

school is generally an extremely good second to the original intention of the hospital, and introduces an element which for good or evil does not trouble us. Therefore my remarks will apply to hospitals without medical schools, and to them alone.

I propose in my first article, next week, to deal with the general arrangement of the hospital, the committee, visiting staff, secretary, financial matters and so forth. In my second with the resident medical and the nursing staff; in my third with the domestic staff and arrangements. With all these a County Matron comes in contact, all affect her more or less; nothing perhaps more than the everlasting effort to combine efficiency with economy, to make 2s. do the whole of the work of twenty-four pence, and to attract the best labour in the market at a reasonable cost; in short, to obtain flourishing results at a small expense.

Most County Hospitals have grown from very small beginnings. The centre of our administration block containing some half-dozen rooms was the whole hospital of the forties. The out-patients were seen in the basement, and the surgeons operated until a few years ago in a room under the roof, the patients being carried up and down a winding staircase.

The manner in which County Hospitals have been improved in the last few years is most creditable to the Committees and others, who have often carried through their reforms under great difficulties and against considerable local opposition, and the arrangements that have been evolved are often very good, elastic, and having plenty of room for further development.

The absence of a medical teaching school gives them, if I might use the term, a more domestic character; the fact that successive generations of patients are the brothers, sisters, children, and so forth of the generations that have gone before, gives a touch of family life to hospital life, but that, and the personal interest of committee men and subscribers in individual patients is a matter for my first article.

Exemption of Hospitals from Rating.

It has been suggested as an argument against the proposal for exempting hospitals from rating that medical homes for private patients, and provident dispensaries, will immediately put the word hospital on their doors, and claim exemption, which it will be difficult to deny them. But surely the supporters of the movement will make a proviso that such exemption shall only apply to institutions where the sick poor are treated free of charge. Ratepayers would suffer great injustice if they had to pay the rates of their neighbours, who are running private nursing homes for gain, as financial speculations.

Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The lecturers and honorary staff of the Dental Hospital of London have generously contributed a special donation of £2,000 towards the building of the new hospital in Leicester Square, which is now nearing completion.

At a recent meeting of the County Council a Report was presented from the Asylums Board which contained the sad information that Miss Orange, M.D., one of the Assistant Medical Officers at Claybury had been compelled through confirmed illness to vacate her appointment. It appears that Dr. Orange's health has been damaged by assaults perpetrated by patients on two occasions, resulting in severe injuries to the head. We are glad to note that a liberal super-annuation allowance was granted; Dr. Collins bore testimony to the valuable work of Miss Orange, and added that Londoners should remember the valuable services, often at the peril of their health and lives, that the staff of the asylums rendered so ungrudgingly to the community. We hope soon to hear that the County Council under the able chairmanship of Mr. Dickinson have under consideration the urgent necessity for lessening the hours of labour of asylum attendants, and also of increasing their remuneration. It is time.

The King has conferred the 2nd Class of the Royal Victorian Order upon Sir Richard Douglas-Powell, Bart., and Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., the two physicians who attended the late Queen in her last illness.

At the 80th Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Charing Cross Hospital, it was reported that little progress had been made during the past year with the improvements, owing to unavoidable causes; also that the Drapers' Company had withdrawn their annual subscription of 30 guineas in common with their subscriptions to other hospitals, preferring to give a lump sum to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund. The expenditure on maintenance and administration had amounted to £14,919. The receipts had amounted to £19,127.

We are glad to hear that the executor of the late Mr. G. J. Lawrence, of Epping (Mr. John Nicholl) has selected St. Mary's Hospital for Sick Children, Plaistow, to participate in the distribution of the residue of the deceased's estate. The hospital will benefit to the extent of £2,738 6s. 8d.

The Annual Report of the Sussex County Hospital at Brighton, proves the energy, happily guided in a progressive direction, of the Committee and Staff. Immense improvements have been made during the past year, and Mr. Charles C. Baily has added to the indebtedness of the town and county by another generous gift, he has defrayed the entire cost of the new electric lift, which important addition adds greatly to the general convenience and comfort to the patients, and considerably enhances the value of the new operating rooms, specially arranged at the top of the building. We are sorry to note a decrease of subscriptions; the good management should elicit increased financial support.

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