

### Annotations.

#### HOSPITAL SATURDAY.

The council of the Metropolitan Hospital Saturday Fund have decided to hold their 29th annual "special" workshop and business house collection in aid of the medical charities on October 12th. Sir Savile Crossley, M.P., is the chairman of the movement. The street collection has now been wisely abandoned, but we hope the Fund will receive liberal support.

#### ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The action of the Local Government Board in issuing a circular to rural local authorities on the subject of isolation hospitals is much to be commended. In many country villages, which should under efficient regulations be ideally healthy, outbreaks of enteric and scarlet fever, diphtheria, and other infectious diseases are of common occurrence, and year after year medical officers of health officially report to local sanitary authorities that the spread of the disease could have been checked if they had had the means of isolating the first cases. The adequate provision of isolation hospitals in rural districts is an urgent necessity, but it seems as if their erection will be indefinitely postponed until—as in the cases of the provision of workhouses and the appointment of sanitary inspectors—rural authorities can be compelled to erect them. The conservative contentment of the average rural official with what was good enough for his forbears is only exceeded by his distrust of and dislike for that which "never has been done." Pressure from outside is needed in order to induce his mind to move outside the ruts of prejudice worn deep and smooth by those who have gone before him. In the case of infectious diseases, where the public health is endangered by the failure of rural authorities to realise their duty it becomes imperative that such pressure should be exerted, and the circular of the Local Government Board is therefore timely.

#### A NOVEL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Aberdeen City District Lunacy Board are erecting a new asylum at Kingseat, Newmachar, near Aberdeen, which is of special interest as being the first segregated asylum in Scotland. It is to be built on the model of the Alt-Scherbitz Lunatic Home in Saxony, and will comprise a central administrative block, a

hospital, and detached villas scattered over an estate of 30 or 40 acres.

It is hoped to break down the institutional character of the Asylum, and to induce the patients to look upon the colony as a home rather than as a house of detention, consequently no walls or railings will mark off the grounds, nor will these be separated from the surrounding country.

It is at present proposed to provide accommodation for 400 patients, but this can be nearly doubled if necessary. This method of providing for the insane has already been successfully carried out in Saxony, and its introduction into Great Britain will be watched with much interest.

#### GARDEN CITIES.

The Garden City Association, 77, Chancery Lane, is to be congratulated on its Conference on the housing problem. The first meeting was held in Birmingham on Friday, September 20th, and on Saturday, by the kind invitation of Mr. George Cadbury, the members of the Conference met at his model village of Bournville, near Birmingham, where he conducted them round the village and afterwards entertained them at lunch. The second session of the Conference then took place, at which Earl Grey presided. The subjects dealt with were "Co-operation in Garden Cities," by Mr. Ralph Neville, K.C., "Manufactures and Labour in Garden Cities" by Mr. Ebenezer Howard, "Public Health in Garden Cities" by Dr. Winslow Hall, M.R.C.S., and "Housing in Garden Cities" by Mr. Alderman Thompson, Mr. H. Clapham Lander, A.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Raymond Unwin, M.S.A. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:—

"That those present at this Conference, convened by the Garden City Association, desire to express their hearty thanks to Mr. George Cadbury for the kind hospitality he has afforded them, their deep sense of the value of Bournville as a step in Housing Reform, and their earnest resolve to do what lies in their power to follow so splendid an example."

Great credit is due to the Association for the admirable arrangements made by it for the convenience of those attending the Conference from London. They were able to travel at greatly reduced rates, and to leave London at 2 p.m. on Friday, and arrive there again at 10 o'clock on Saturday, having attended the whole Conference. Hotel accommodation was found for those who desired it, and dinner was served in the train on the return journey to London.

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