

The Guest Hospital, Dudley, recently received an anonymous donation of £500 (by registered post), seven vanloads of furniture, much of it new, four pianos, and 100 pictures, the latter being valued at £350. The *Birmingham Daily Post* states that the donor is Mr. Hugh Lewis, formerly a pawnbroker, of Tipton.

The bazaar at Coventry which the American Ambassador opened, realised, with donations, nearly £4,000. The proceeds go to the hospital funds.

It is reported that the balance-sheet of Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, will disclose a deficiency of £1,700 on the year. Commenting on this unsatisfactory state of things, a local contemporary says: "The unhappy institution appears to be the shuttlecock of cranks, who are continually introducing some new panacea without touching the root of the matter."

The Medical Officer of Health for Blackpool, and the Matron and Nurses of the Sanatorium in that town, will be grateful for contributions of books, toys, and subscriptions in money, which will enable them to promote the happiness and pleasure of patients suffering from infectious diseases and isolated for the protection of the community. As books and toys in an infectious hospital have frequently to be destroyed, the appeal will we hope meet with a cordial response. All gifts will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Medical Officer of Health, 21, Birley Street, Blackpool.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland opened the new buildings at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, last week, including the Alexandra Nurses' Home. In doing so, he said that the opening of the new operating theatre brought very forcibly to his mind the anxiety through which he had recently been passing. His Excellency added that he was never likely to forget his gratitude to the surgeons who had so skilfully attended Lady Dudley, and if he was able to show his gratitude in connection with the hospitals or the medical profession in Dublin the appeal would not be made to him in vain.

The Nobel Committee of the Storting have divided the Nobel peace prize between M. Elie Ducommun, honorary secretary of the International Peace Bureau at Berne, and Dr. Albert Gobat, secretary of the Inter-Parliamentary Peace Bureau in that city.

The formal distribution of the four grand Nobel prizes for 1902 took place at Stockholm last week in the presence of the King, several other members of the Royal Family, and a distinguished gathering.

One hundred and eleven ladies have obtained their medical degree at the final State examinations for women doctors, which have just been held for the first time in Russia.

Surgeon-Professor Hofrath Moselig is reported to have discovered a method of curing mortification of the bones of the leg by removing the diseased part and replacing it with a filling of iodoform, sesamoel, and spermaceti.

According to *La Semaine Medicale*, a Dutch physician, Dr. Steiner, has discovered a new method of producing anaesthesia practised among the Javanese. It is by compression of the carotid artery, and the same plan seems to be known among Indians of Alaska.

## A Dangerous Habit.

Dr. William Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, has included in his Report to the Sanitary Committee for November the following valuable contribution on Tuberculosis and Spitting. We hope it may have the effect of promoting legislation in regard to the habit of indiscriminate spitting:—

### TUBERCULOSIS AND SPITTING.

In accordance with the Resolution of your Worshipful Committee, a Circular Letter, calling attention to the filthy and dangerous habit of indiscriminate spitting, was addressed to all the Railway, Omnibus, and Tramway Companies, Post Offices, Telegraph Offices, Markets, Public Offices, Restaurants, Licensed Victuallers, Police, Fire Brigade, and School Boards, and a Notice prepared for hanging up in such premises was subsequently issued.

This has been well received by most of the managers of such undertakings, who have expressed their willingness to co-operate with the Corporation, and have agreed to exhibit the Notice supplied, or others of a similar character.

Such action, however, does not appear to have very marked influence in dealing with the offenders against decency and the laws of public health, and I am of opinion that the time is come to deal with the question in a more radical and stringent manner.

I have therefore collected some information as to legislation on this subject in our own and foreign countries.

NEW YORK.—It is forbidden to spit in trams and omnibuses under pain of a fine of 500 dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both, and many persons have been already punished for the offence, special plain clothes detectives being employed to deal with this habit.

BOSTON.—The Board of Health on March 23rd, 1899, issued a Regulation as follows:—

"The Board of Health hereby adjudges that the deposit of sputum in public places is a nuisance, source of filth, and cause of sickness, and hereby orders that spitting upon the floor, platform, or steps of any railroad or railway station, car, public building, hall, church, theatre, market, or any sidewalk immediately connected with said public places be, and hereby is, prohibited."

TORONTO, OTTAWA, HALIFAX, and NOVA SCOTIA have all made the habit a penal offence.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—By Section 130 of "The New South Wales Municipalities Act, 1897," the Council of any Municipality is empowered to make Bye-laws (*inter alia*) for "Providing for the health of the Municipality, and against the spreading of contagious or infectious disease," and although spitting in public is not specifically included therein, a Bye-law has been made by the Council of the Borough of North Sydney under the provisions of this Act, in regard to expectorating on the footway, as follows: "No person shall expectorate on the footway of any street in the Borough, and any person so offending shall for each offence, upon conviction, forfeit and pay a penalty or sum not exceeding one pound (£1).—November 12th, 1901."

And again, in a Bill "to codify and amend the

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