

and the Hanwell annexe are constructed with plastered interiors on steel lathing. The annexe for males at Banstead is match-boarded, but is not of the same design as the buildings destroyed at Colney Hatch. It has, however, been considered desirable to make alterations in the corridors. Alterations are also being carried out at the Manor Asylum and at the Hanwell temporary buildings.

The funds of the Lincoln County Hospital, which are considerably straitened by the cost of recent enlargements, have just benefited by two very handsome gifts. A cheque for £500 has been received from Mr. Coningsby C. Sibthorpe, of Sudbrook Holme, and a similar sum from Mr. Montagu R. Waldo Sibthorpe, of Canwick Hall.

At the annual meeting of the Sussex County Hospital, Lord Leconfield was re-elected President. It was mentioned that the institution would probably benefit substantially from the special appeal his lordship was now making on its behalf.

The management of the Durham County Hospital has every reason to feel satisfied with the present position of the institution. The report presented at the recent annual meeting made it clear that a good and useful work is being done, and that the financial perplexities that formerly harassed the gentlemen in command are no longer a source of trouble. This satisfactory state of affairs is due very largely to the efforts of the colliery and other workers in the district, who now make a regular weekly contribution to the funds in place of the haphazard method of subscription formerly in vogue. The figures of the financial statement enable one to estimate the advantage of the workmen's contributions. Last year they handed over more than £1,600, this being nearly £1,000 in excess of the previous year, and, according to their representatives on the committee of management, next year the receipts from the workmen will again show a considerable advance.

The Marquis of Bute, through Sir W. T. Lewis, has promised £1,000 to the Cardiff Infirmary to equip the institution with electric light.

The Committee of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Dundee express their regret at the want of accommodation for cancer patients, and also for ordinary female patients. The Committee feel that if the public would only interest themselves in the good work which the Society is performing, and subscribe towards the extension and further endowment of the hospital, a large number of sufferers from incurable diseases would reap the benefit.

The King and Queen have consented to become patrons of the Royal Victoria Memorial Hospital at Nice, and it is hoped the King will lay the foundation stone next month.

A project is being initiated for a new separate and completely equipped surgical hospital in connection with the Medical College at Calcutta. The present combined arrangement, under which medical and surgical patients are treated in closely adjoining wards, has been a serious drawback, which it is intended to remove by the construction of a proper surgical hospital.

Items of Interest.

Official statistics recently published at Capetown give alarming evidence of the growth of consumption in South Africa. Out of 10,135 deaths that occurred in the principal towns of Cape Colony during the first ten months of last year no fewer than 1,042, or rather more than 10 per cent., were attributable to various forms of tubercular and pulmonary phthisis. Medical opinion takes the view that in Capetown at least the disease has now become endemic.

But there can be no doubt that the figures are largely swelled by the influx of unfortunate consumptives in the last stages of the disease from Great Britain. It cannot too often be pointed out that Capetown, where most of these poor people land, and where the majority of them die, is not adapted by its climate for the cure of the disease, or even for the prolongation of the patient's life.

In the earlier stages of consumption the climate of the upland districts—the Karoo and Kimberley, for instance—is of the greatest benefit.

With reference to the causes of death under chloroform, Mr. Frederic W. Hewitt, M.D., M.V.O., anaesthetist to the King, has made some remarkable statements on the effect of chloroform on different persons.

Mr. Hewitt says that the opinions of the public regarding anaesthetics are almost ludicrous. They believe that, providing their hearts are strong enough, they can take any anaesthetic with impunity.

"The fact is," says this eminent authority, "patients with comparatively feeble heart action are, other things being equal, better subjects than those whose hearts are perfectly normal and vigorous."

The explanation of this is said to be simple enough. The greater the muscular power the greater the muscular rigidity under anaesthetics, and consequently the greater respiratory derangement. The comparatively feeble individual often makes the best patient. And, speaking generally, the patient with the "weak heart" is a better subject for an anaesthetic than the patient with the strong heart—which, as Mr. Hewitt says, is "a totally different doctrine from that which is generally accepted."

The "perfect type" of patient, according to Mr. Hewitt, is a middle-aged woman in moderately good health, of spare build, sallow complexion, placid temperament, and moderate habits, possessing a free nasal air-way and somewhat defective teeth.

Women are better subjects than either men or children.

The British Anti-Tobacco and Anti-Narcotic League will "take immediate steps for the introduction into Parliament of a Bill for the suppression of the sale to and the use of tobacco in all forms by juveniles under sixteen years of age."

"After years of jubilee demonstrations, celebrations, coronations, exterminations, annexations, glorifications, and jollifications," said Sir Wilfrid Lawson recently at Leicester, "the small voice of reason is urging attention to the poor at home."

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