

M'Hugh, whose brave action in saving the life of a patient at great personal risk was recently reported at length in these columns, have been presented by the Committee of the County Tyrone Infirmary with beautiful gold medals, suitably inscribed. The Chairman, Canon Scott, in making the presentation, said that he did not believe anyone who had gained the Victoria Cross had done greater service to their country than these two brave nurses, and they had brought honour on the institution with which they were connected. We heartily endorse his statement that the action of these nurses showed the high standard of duty that prevailed amongst them, and that the Matron, Miss Hayes, deserved a great deal of credit for the spirit and enthusiasm she imparted to the nursing staff. We have always held that a good Matron makes good nurses. Dr. E. C. Thompson, M.P., surgeon to the hospital, said he did not think he had ever heard of a braver action in recent years.

We have often advocated floating sanatoria in these columns, so that it is interesting to report that steps are being taken in Berlin by several physicians and associations interested in the treatment of consumption to test the value of sea air on patients afflicted with this disease. Ordinary steamers, owing to the noise, unpleasant smells and want of proper accommodation, are unsuitable. Sailing ships also, as at present built, are unsuitable. It is proposed therefore to build a large floating sanatorium, with complete equipment for scientifically testing the effects of sea air on consumptives, with roomy open-air wards and medical supervision. After careful inquiry it has been decided that the cruising ground for the new ship will be the north-eastern Atlantic, in the neighbourhood of the Canary Islands. Should success attend the effort, further floating sanatoria will be built. The voyages will last about six weeks.

On the initiative of Mrs. Beckett, the wife of the Acting Agent and Chief Engineer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, a Railway Nursing Association is being organised, and assuredly it is needed for the benefit of men who have to fight the malignancy of a treacherous climate and to run great risks from exposure. The Association aims at independence. The starting capital is £1,000, and the railway officers have consented to contribute not only a first call but also an annual maintenance charge. It is proposed, in the first instance, to send out a Sister and a nurse from England for a period of three years, but it is probable that at the end of this time their value will be so fully recognised that the work of the Association will not only be maintained, but increased. This is the record of most nursing associations abroad.

The Hospital World.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

The great hospital of St. Bartholomew's—the first Royal Hospital in the country—has during the past ten days been the subject of much criticism; indeed, the spontaneous outburst in the Press appears to point to an organised opposition inspired by motives which are both ungenerous and unworthy.

The reason of the outcry is that, for the first time for over a century, the Governors of the hospital contemplate an appeal to the public for aid in carrying on the work which for over seven centuries has benefited thousands of sick and suffering persons. Owing to the liberality of its founders in the past, and the wisdom of its Treasurers and Governors, in the management of its finances and the investments made, the hospital has been, so far, entirely self-supporting. At the present time a crisis, as is well known, has arisen in its history. It has recently had to pay, in order to acquire a portion of the site of Christ's Hospital, no less a sum than £250,000, which sum it has paid out of its income and husbanded resources; but the strain of defraying the cost of the erection and equipment of new buildings on the site is greater than the Governors feel justified in undertaking, and it is proposed, through a Mansion House Fund, to ask the public for the sum of £300,000.

The immediate outcry raised is on the grounds (1) that such a fund would injure other hospitals by curtailing the source of their supplies, and (2) that the Hospital should be moved further from the heart of the City [to a site where it would be equally and increasingly useful, and that the sale of the present most valuable site would enable the Governors to acquire sufficient ground to erect a hospital on the most approved modern principles without appealing to the public for aid.

To consider the second argument first, we must own there is much to be said in its favour. We discussed the question in these columns in our issue of December 6th ult., and while there is no doubt that the removal of the hospital from its present site, where for centuries it has done invaluable work, and from the historic associations of which it is so justly proud would occasion regret to those connected with it, yet the reasons for remaining in the present situation are based upon sentiment, while cogent ones can be brought forward to the contrary. Chief amongst these appears to us to be that the ground possessed by the hospital is insufficient for its present needs, while expansion to meet future necessities will be quite impossible, and, further, by removal to a larger site, the patients would be placed under conditions more favourable to their recovery than is possible in the present congested area.

The wisdom of exodus from the City has been

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