

The Passing Bell.

We regret to record the death of Miss Emma Masters, the Matron of the Victoria Cottage Hospital, Wynberg, which took place on Christmas morning. Miss Masters was for many years a lay Sister at the New Somerset Hospital, and on relinquishing this post she was awarded a pension by Government. She subsequently did duty at the Military Hospital, Wynberg, which she left to take up the appointment of Matron at the Victoria Cottage Hospital. She held the office for one year and eight months, and died in harness after an illness of twelve days' duration. The number of patients who owe their lives and relief from suffering to her faithful duty is innumerable. She endeared herself to all by a thoroughness of purpose and an unselfish life that have always been exemplary. Her loss will be keenly felt and mourned, but her example and remembrance remain.

The Hospital World.

THE FUTURE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.

On Monday last the Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House over an influential meeting of the Special Committee of the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, convened for the purpose of considering the proposed appeal for the enlargement of the hospital. The proceedings were private, but the following resolution, moved by Sir Trevor Lawrence, treasurer of the hospital, and seconded by Mr. B. L. Cohen, M.P., was unanimously adopted:—

"That, having regard to the criticism upon the proposed appeal for the enlargement of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, based on inaccurate information, a committee be appointed to report:

"(1) Whether it is desirable, in the public interest and on financial grounds, to retain St. Bartholomew's Hospital on its present site.

"(2) In the event of the retention of the hospital on its present site, whether any better scheme of rebuilding than that suggested by the Governors can be devised.

"(3) Upon any other matters affecting the hospital that the committee may think it desirable to inquire into.

"That such committee do consist of fifteen members—nine to be nominated by the Lord Mayor and six by the treasurer of the hospital, the Lord Mayor and the treasurer being *ex-officio* members of the committee."

We hope that in the formation of this Committee the important interests of the Nursing and Domestic Departments will be represented by some woman or women duly qualified to give expert advice to the Committee with regard to this branch, for it is not too much to say that the future efficiency of the hospital depends largely on the efficiency of these departments, and before the adoption of any scheme the best methods of their future organisation should receive careful consideration.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The financial year of the Hospital Saturday Fund closed last week. The total receipts were £23,025, being £1,478 more than in 1901. This is a record collection, being £1,412 in excess of the amount collected in any preceding year. The total amount received since Christmas was £5,710. The Board will meet on January 24th, when the awards recommended by the distribution committee will be considered.

The Queen has sent a subscription of £5 to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road.

By command of Queen Alexandra a cheque for £15 4s. 1d. has been sent to the secretary of the Gordon Boys' Home, and a cheque for a similar amount to the secretary of the British Home for Incurables, the two sums being the profits derived during the year 1902 from the sale of Canon Fleming's sermon "Recognition in Eternity."

Mr. Sutton Timmis, of Liverpool, has invested £10,000, the interest on which is to be employed in researches regarding the origin and cure of cancer. These are to be carried out at the Royal Infirmary, and University College, Liverpool.

The National Association for the Prevention of Consumption is again turning its attention to the disagreeable and dangerous, but unfortunately too prevalent, habit of spitting in tramway cars. This practice has already been made a penal offence in the county of Glamorgan, and the council of the association, desiring that this admirable example should be followed elsewhere, have passed the following resolution:—"That spitting on the floors of public buildings, on platforms, corridors, staircases, and public carriages or passenger boats, or in any covered place of public resort, should be forbidden by law."

Pauper lunacy is largely increasing in England and Wales. On the pauper census-day, July 1st last, there were 99,769 lunatics—an addition during twelve months of 2,673.

Italy proposes to employ all criminals sentenced to penal servitude in the reclamation of the malaria-stricken regions of the country.

The big Chicago packing-houses, it is said, have humanely decided to rob death of its pangs for the oxen, sheep, and hogs that go to immolation in their abattoirs. Laughing-gas will be administered to the animals before they meet the deadly knife.

Surgeon-General Wilson, who was principal medical officer in South Africa during the war, has been directed to prepare a full report on the medical service rendered while the operations were in progress.

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