

phenomenon insanity was in this country until about A.D. 1600; indeed, in Scotland, south of Edinburgh and Glasgow, until 1839, there was no special place of restraint or confinement except six squalid stone cells attached to the public hospital of Dumfries; violent lunatics being restrained in their own houses, in prisons, or in police stations. Thanks to the growth of civilisation and the endless complexity of human concerns, asylums for the insane have taken the place of the leper hospitals of old, and the demand for such is steadily on the increase. To similar causes are we indebted for the almost innumerable charities—hospitals, dispensaries, asylums, houses of refuge, almshouses, &c.—now in vogue for old and young, whether poor, lame, blind, or halt, deserving or undeserving, if unable to help themselves. Bearing in mind how small the population of Scotland was—only 470,000 in 1371, and 700,000 in 1560—we find a surprising number of these benevolent establishments scattered throughout the kingdom. Generally speaking, hospitals were either the off-shoots of the monasteries or the pious offering of some of the laity, and the motives originating many of them were as diversified as were the hospital buildings, the only thing they seemed to have in common being the chapel and burial ground. One marked feature is that many of them were placed on the margin of some river just where the highway crossed; in other words, where a ferry was necessary. Where the endowment permitted, the staff of such a hospital consisted of the master or warden, a chaplain, the infirmerer, and several brothers to assist in the services of the Church and in nursing the infirm. In certain of the hospitals might be added the Bedesmen, whose duty it was to pray daily for the souls of their benefactors, the founders of the hospital; “the kyng, the quene, and all cristen souls.” From time to time grants in aid of the lepers were made by Acts of Parliament, and from these we gather that anything was thought good enough for the poor leper. Thus it was ordained that when a wild beast was found dead or wounded in the forest, its head was to be sent to the nearest leper house, and the same with corrupt or tainted pork or putrid salmon; “gif ony man brings to the market corrupt swine or salmond to be sould, they sall be taken by the bailies, and incontinent, without ony question, sall be sent to the lepper folke.” Pitiably indeed was the lot of those who suffered from this loathsome disease, for from the moment they were adjudged lepers they lost all privileges of citizenship, all political rights, and were held to be incapable of conducting their own family business, or even the disposal of their own property. By both the civil and ecclesiastical law they were regarded as virtually dead. They were prohibited from entering inns, churches, mills, and bakehouses; even the water gushing out of the common fountain was forbidden them. Of these old hospitals little or nothing now

remains beyond the burial ground, where the outline of the chapel walls can still perhaps be distinguished. But the memory of many of those who founded these buildings has survived the strong stone-built structures; they were men and women full of faith and of good works, whose lives of practical religion and charity had truly been the salt of the nation. There can be no question that in their day these institutions alike reflected honour on their pious founders and lasting benefits on the country.

## Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE PRINCESS ALICE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, EASTBOURNE.—His Majesty the King has graciously presented to the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital at Eastbourne a portrait of himself to be added to those already hanging on the walls of the institution. The picture, which will be placed in a conspicuous position in the hospital, is a photogravure of His Majesty in the uniform of a field-marshal.

WINDFALL FOR THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, HEREFORD.—Under the will of Mr. Benjamin St. John Attwood-Mathews, subject to the life interest of his wife, the Herefordshire General Hospital receives £5,000. Cambridge University, and Trinity College, Cambridge, also benefit to the extent of £5,000 each.

CHURCH ARMY NURSES AT LAMBETH.—The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited the officers, nurses, and honorary staff of the Church Army to visit him at Lambeth Palace during their next annual conference.

AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—A donation of £1,000 has been received from the Worshipful Company of Mercers to the Building Fund of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE QUINQUENNIAL APPEAL OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.—It is reported that the quinquennial appeal made this year on behalf of the London Hospital has been an unequalled success. Up to date no less than £130,000 has been received during the year.

BEQUESTS TO HOSPITALS.—The Victoria Park Hospital, the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, and the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, benefit to the extent of £500 each under the will of the late Mr. George Harwood. The North-Eastern Hospital also benefits to the extent of £5,000 by a contingent reversionary legacy under the will of the late Mrs. Alice Anne Mee.

LEGACY TO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The Central News Agency states that a gentleman who desires to remain anonymous has, through Professor Starling, presented the sum of £50,000 to University College, London, to be applied to the promotion of higher scientific education and research.

A CHARITIES BOARD.—Mr. C. S. Loch, the energetic Secretary of the Charity Organisation

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