

the front entrance and in the out-patients' hall of the hospital.

The foundation stone of an infectious hospital to serve Northwich rural, Northwich, Winsford, and Middlewich urban districts, embracing a population of 50,000, was recently laid by Major Wilbraham. The hospital will cost nearly £16,000, and will include beds for fourteen scarlet-fever and eight typhoid patients.

Mr. Henry Evans, of Derby, has bequeathed £10,000 to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary, for the purpose of building and equipping the permanent ophthalmic department.

Mrs. Nosworthy, of Newlands, Dawlish, has offered to defray the cost, estimated at £1,000, of providing the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital with a new operating theatre.

An anonymous donation of £1,000, "in memoriam," has been received on behalf of a children's ward which it is proposed to establish at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

Chalmers Hospital, Edinburgh, has since last July been in the hands of workmen for reconstruction and renovation. It is hoped that the re-opening may take place during the present month. The hospital was established forty years ago, and there has been a growing demand on its resources. Two classes of patients are received into its wards, paying patients, for whom sixteen beds are reserved, and free patients, for whom there are twenty-six beds. In addition to these, however, the hospital physicians and surgeons have to overtake a heavy roll of out-patients, and the increase in that department was one of the special reasons for the reconstruction which has been carried out. The former out-patient department has been converted into an operating-room with annexes, and the out-patients are now provided for in a detached building in the rear of the hospital.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland and Lady Dudley have consented to open the Newry Hospital Bazaar on December 7th, and the Countess of Kilmorey has agreed to perform the opening ceremony on the second day.

Appendicitis, says the *Onlooker*, has gone out of fashion. It is rather a slur upon one's character for up-to-dateness to suffer from it now. The newest thing to go wrong is the gall-duct.

At Pretoria last week Lord Roberts laid the foundation-stone of a hospital which is to be erected as a memorial to Queen Victoria and the soldiers who fell in the late war.

Postponement.

Mr. Henry S. Wellcome states that the response to the announcement of the proposed Historical Medical Exhibition has been beyond his expectations, and this, together with the many valuable suggestions received from leading members of the profession and the trade, at home and abroad, has prompted him to considerably widen its scope. The extent of the work involved renders it impossible to fix a definite date for the exhibition until a later period, announcement of which will be duly made. The exhibit will include many objects of exceptional interest that have been promised from different quarters of the globe.

A Little Bit of History.

The chief originator of the Red Cross Society has been made the victim of well-intentioned but unreflecting gossip, says the *Standard*. The inventor of the report that Dr. Dunant had fallen into indigent circumstances might well have remembered that the aged philanthropist had been awarded one of the Nobel prizes. The story having been circulated, contradicted, and reaffirmed, Dr. Dunant has himself been constrained to dispose of it. So far from having come upon evil days, he states that the pension bestowed upon him by the Dowager-Empress of Russia satisfies his slender necessities so completely that he has not even been obliged to touch the capital of the funds derived from M. Nobel's benefaction. He is living happily and quietly, as his advanced years dictate, at his villa on Lake Constance. It would, indeed, have been a lamentable scandal if Dr. Dunant, in his old age, had suffered through public neglect. His well-being deserves to be the care of civilisation. Few agitations have been started from purer motives, or resulted in more benefit to mankind, than that begun by the Genevese physician by his account of the horrors which he witnessed in two military hospitals on the battle-field of Solferino. He might have failed, possibly, to touch the conscience of Europe if his advocacy had been unassisted. But he had an invaluable ally in his friend Moynier, the Chairman of the Geneva Society of Public Utility, and, between them, they pressed upon the Powers the expediency of "neutralising" sick-wagons, and of forming volunteer societies of qualified persons to help the wounded. The result of their propaganda, which was carried on by means of numerous branch associations, was the first Geneva Convention—that of 1864. Among its ten articles, the seventh, formal though it was, has, probably, gathered round it more sentiment than any recent regulation made in obedience to the appeal of humanity. It ran to the effect that hospitals and ambulances should carry, in addition to the flag of their nation, a distinct and uniform banner bearing a red cross on a white ground, and that their staff should wear arm-badges of the same colours. The Red Cross of Geneva was no less the direct creation of Dr. Dunant than was prison reform of Howard or improved dwellings for the working classes of George Peabody. Admiration for the Swiss philanthropist need not blot out at the same time the gratitude due to his predecessors and successors in the alleviation of pain on the battle-field. The nursing of the wounded had already been organised out of chaos and incompetence by Miss Florence Nightingale, Kinglake's "Lady of the Lamp." The American Civil War marked the beginning of the modern ambulance system, and that independently of Dr. Dunant's exertions. That same grim struggle also taught mankind what railways could do in the way of conveying the sick and wounded out of the whirl of combat. Several International Conferences have since been needed to complete the work begun by the Geneva Convention, and various organisations, in addition to the Red Cross, have been established to carry its intentions into effect. Among such is our National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded, which came into being after the outbreak of the Franco-German War, the first struggle upon a large scale in which Dr. Dunant's theories were put to a really practical test.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)