

The Earl of Dudley (President), the Earl of Harrowby (treasurer), Sir W. R. Gowers, Sir Victor Horsley, and Mr. T. Danvers Power (Chairman of the Board of Management) write jointly appealing on behalf of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. They state that the lowest expenditure of the hospital is £19,000 a year, while the maximum yearly income on which it can depend is £13,000. The Board of Management finds itself without anything on which it can rely, all the available capital having been either expended or pledged. The expenses will have to be cut down. The first step is the shutting up of the Convalescent Home at East Finchley, and the closing of wards must follow unless the public assists.

The closing of the Finchley Home would be a sad pity, the class of cases received there being just those who by their peculiar sufferings are disqualified from entrance to many of the convalescent institutions for general diseases. Reorganisation was no doubt quite necessary at the National Hospital; but surely those Governors who insisted upon it should come forward and support financially the extra expenditure. It is at such a time that the services of "the most splendid beggar" in the hospital world, the late Director, will be much missed.

Mr. John Tweedy, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, last week unveiled a window which has been erected in memory of Mr. William Cadge, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Norwich Cathedral, who was such a generous friend to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

Mr. Henry Whitehead, of Haslem Hey, Bury, ex-Sheriff of Lancashire, who has made many generous gifts to his native town, has secured on a lease for 999 years a large house in the centre of Bury, and presented it to the Bury Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, of which Mrs. Whitehead is the hon. secretary. Mr. Whitehead has also invested a sum of money in stock, the interest on which will pay the rent of the new premises, and Colonel Walker has undertaken to defray the cost of additional furniture.

The foundation-stone of a new out-patients' department at the Bradford Children's Hospital was laid by Mr. Briggs Priestley on Saturday last. The work in this department has so increased in the last five years that it has become absolutely necessary to provide additional room. Whilst the attendances of out-patients in 1899 were 8,262, the figures reached 15,277 last year, an average of nearly 300 a week. The new department is to be built in Bertram Road, detached from the hospital, and it will consist of waiting, registration, consultation, and operating rooms, with a dispensary and drug store, and porter's residence. The estimated cost, including fittings and adaptation of the rooms at present in use for out-patients, will amount to £1,700, towards which the Board of Management have about £500 in hand.

Edmonton Board of Guardians has decided to erect a huge infirmary capable of accommodating 800 patients. The total cost of the buildings, when completed, will, it is expected, amount to nearly £200,000. There are only about three other unions in the country as large as the Edmonton Union.

## Professional Review.

### UNDER THE CARE OF THE JAPANESE WAR OFFICE.\*

Under the above heading Miss Ethel McCaul publishes a diary written during her visit to Japan, undertaken with the object of inspecting the work of the Red Cross Society of Japan, and also of gaining some insight into the methods employed in the military and civil hospitals in that country, into the organisation of the Army nursing service, and the methods adopted in the management of the civil prisons.

Miss McCaul, accompanied by Miss Elaine St. Aubyn, landed at Kobé on May 3rd, and after seeing hospitals, prisons, and paying a visit to the front, on which expedition they were under the care of the Japanese War Office, which deputed a Japanese lady, Madame Kuroda, to accompany them, as a War Office official, they left again for England on July 4th. During the whole of her visit, Miss McCaul was most courteously treated and cared for by the Japanese Government, which gave her every facility for obtaining the information she desired. She was also received by the Empress, and, indeed, it is apparent throughout the book that even in a time of exceptional stress and strain such as the present, the Japanese, courteous as ever extended the most hospitable welcome to the stranger within their gates and endeavoured to make Miss McCaul's visit pleasurable as well as profitable.

Miss McCaul seems much impressed, not only with the efficiency of the Japanese Red Cross Society, but also with the qualities of the Japanese nurses. She says:—"I am not surprised to hear that Japanese women are splendid in the sick room. Their gentleness of manner and soft voices are not their only recommendation; their intelligence and quickness is unmistakable. Added to these qualifications, they have the most perfect little hands and delicate touch."

At the Red Cross Society's Hospital at Tokio, after inspecting the wards, the visitors were taken to the hospital warehouse to see the field outfit. The paniers were carefully thought out, the fittings most simple; they are only intended to last for a short time, the reason given being that improvements were always coming to the fore, and, if the outfit was not too expensive, it could be readily renewed. A stretcher, "admirable for its lightness and simplicity," weighed only 12 lb., with hood, poles, and rainproof cover complete. The field steriliser employed is heated by charcoal, wood, or any other fuel. A thoroughly practical field disinfectant, large enough to disinfect twenty blankets at a time, is greatly commended. "Surely if such sterilisers had been more freely used in our last campaign, the 'Army blanket scandal' might have been avoided."

In the operating theatre of the University Hospital, Tokio, where Miss McCaul witnessed an operation performed by Dr. Sato, a great Japanese surgeon, she says that everything was exquisitely clean and up-to-date, but polished metal was very little used. Wherever possible, white painted ironwork took its place, and glass tables and shelves were freely used.

The nurses moved about in the quickest and quietest way possible, and touched everything they were preparing surprisingly little with their hands, using instead long forceps in a most dextrous

\* Cassell & Company, Limited.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)