

The Hospital World.

THE SPIRIT OF REACTION AT THE MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

The poll of the trustees of the Manchester Royal Infirmary upon the question of a central receiving house has resulted in the following resolution being passed by a majority of 150:—

“That accommodation for the treatment of medical and surgical casualties and dispensary out-patients near the Piccadilly site and in a northerly direction therefrom be provided for the following purposes:—(a) The administration of first aid; (b) the treatment of minor casualties; (c) the treatment of out-patients who dwell at an inconvenient distance from the new infirmary; (d) the dispensing of medicine and appliances to such out-patients and to home patients; and (e) the detention under observation for a few hours of patients in cases where diagnosis is difficult.”

The defeated amendment, which was moved by Colonel Clapham, seconded by Mr. J. Saxon, was identical in text with the motion, except that it imposed the condition that accommodation should be provided “before the renewal of the present Infirmary,” and gave the following important substitution for clause (e):—

“The treatment of urgent cases, in which removal would be attended with danger, for which twenty beds with all necessary equipment should be provided.”

We consider the result of the poll very regrettable, and are entirely in sympathy with Colonel Clapham's point of view, and venture to prophesy that with practical experience of the working of a casualty department without beds, it will be found that serious harm will result to the injured by failing to supply emergency beds and proper nursing.

Somehow the Manchester Infirmary management is very reactionary in nursing matters, and, presumably, the importance of nursing, as apart from medical treatment and drugs, has not been realised by the Board. It is a pity some of the managers did not pay a visit to Boston, U.S.A., before voting on this question. They would have there found in efficient working order just such an annexe to the splendid City Hospital as is required at Manchester, and which has been the means of an enormous saving of suffering to the sick and injured in the heart of the city.

Help for the London Hospitals.

The King has written to Lord Mount-Stephen expressing his high appreciation of the magnificent donation which Lord Mount-Stephen has just made to King Edward's Hospital Fund. The gift takes the form of bonds for £200,000, yielding an income of £11,000 a year, which will bring the fixed income of the Fund up to £47,000 per annum.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



Mr. W. H. Cross, who has recently retired from the post of clerk of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which he has held for thirty-eight years, has, upon the recommendation of the Duke of Bedford, Lord-Lieutenant of Middlesex, been placed by the Lord Chancellor upon the Commission of the Peace for that county.

A clock-like machine has been adopted by the Committee of the London Hospital—we believe invented by the Secretary—for the purpose of collecting subscriptions. It is calculated that the expenses of the hospital are one penny a second. When that amount is dropped into the machine the indicator moves one point, thus showing to the donor that for one whole second he has borne the entire expense of keeping the largest hospital in London going. It makes one feel a millionaire to think of it.

The King has given a donation of twenty-five guineas to the fund being raised for the enlargement of the Hunstanton Convalescent Home.

The Duchess of Albany has promised to give a hundred guineas towards the building fund of the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, in which she takes a keen interest, and has intimated her willingness to receive like promises from intending contributors.

The fourteenth expedition of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, under Colonel Giles, Indian Medical Service, late Sanitary Commissioner for the North-West Province, and Dr. R. C. McConnell, sailed on Saturday from Liverpool by the steamship *Sobo* for West Africa.

The year 1904, unlike its predecessor, was by no means a stormy one, though during the earlier months a fair amount of boisterous weather was experienced. This returned now and again throughout the year, with the result that the lifeboat crews of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution were afforded the opportunity of rendering many valuable life-saving services. The institution's lifeboats were launched 294 times on service, in addition to which lifeboat crews were assembled in readiness for service 50 times, but their assistance was not needed. The number of lives saved by lifeboats and other means for which the Royal National Lifeboat Institution granted rewards during the year was 519, and as many as thirty-four vessels and boats were also saved from partial or total loss. The total number of lives for the saving of which the institution has granted rewards since its establishment in 1824 has been 44,880. The cost of maintaining the institution's fleet of 285 lifeboats grows year by year, and increased help is greatly needed. Donations may be sent to the Secretary, Mr. Charles Dibdin, 20, Charing Cross Road.

The London County Council proposes to replace by a permanent structure the temporary buildings at Colney Hatch, which formerly accommodated some 300 patients and were destroyed by fire, when over fifty women perished.

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