

steel from the eye, thereby in many cases saving the eye. The generous donor of the building and the subscribers to the fund for its proper and complete equipment deserve the heartfelt thanks not only of the infirmary committee, but of everyone in the community and district as well. The pavilion was formally opened on the 26th inst., at 3.30 p.m., by Sir William Henry Preece, K.C.B., F.R.S.

The report of the Committee of Contributors to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary appointed to consider the infirmary managers' report and accounts for the year ending October 1st last has now been issued. The committee are pleased to observe that the surgical out-patient department is being placed on a new basis, under the charge of the assistant surgeons, who will in rotation undertake the duty. They trust that this change will prove satisfactory. It is remarked that the subscriptions of individuals and firms in the city were less than those of the preceding year by about £150. The hope is expressed that the contributions, both in number and amount, may, instead of falling off, be largely increased, looking to the growing needs of the infirmary, which is now so greatly extended, and which, it is believed, is fully abreast of the latest developments in medicine and surgery. It is mentioned that the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is the largest hospital in Great Britain. During the year the cost per occupied bed, including expenses of every kind and the cost of the out-patient department, had been £61 7s. 10d., a reduction of £2 12s. 6d. compared with the previous year. The cost was about half of that incurred in the largest London hospital. With regard to the treatment of mental diseases, it is stated that the managers have not yet come to any decision on the subject. Their difficulty is how to provide the necessary accommodation. In conclusion, the committee record their opinion that the management of the institution during the year had been satisfactory.

Evidently the canny people over the Tweed do not sympathise with Sir Henry Burdett's obsolete ideas on the question of women on hospital boards, to judge by the voting to fill the vacancies on the Board of Management of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. There were nine candidates, two of whom were women, and of the six elected the names of both women appear—Miss Louisa Stevenson and Miss A.C. Imlach. The sooner the "absolutist" London hospitals follow suit the better for all concerned.

The Glasgow Women's Private Hospital appears to be doing good work. Dr. Robert Gourlay presided at the recent annual meeting, and in the report of the Executive Committee, read by Miss Guthrie, hon. secretary, it was stated that the year had been one of continuous and satisfactory work. That the hospital was meeting a real need was seen by the fact that eighty-two patients had been admitted during the year, giving an average of nearly seven per month. It was gratifying to find that the patients were coming principally from the class the subscribers were anxious to benefit, namely, the wives and daughters of professional men, missionaries, governesses, young women in lodgings, and those who could not obtain otherwise the nursing and care for which they were prepared to pay a moderate sum. The ordinary income for the twelve months was £496 11s. 10d., showing an increase of £55 13s. 6d. in the amount received as annual subscriptions, and the expenditure amounted to

£551 12s. 10d. After adding the balance brought forward from last year, there was a small balance. There remains a balance of £317 17s. at the credit of the reserve account.

Good medical treatment and efficient nursing are so expensive as to be quite unattainable by middle-class working women, and as they are not eligible for general hospital wards, we think the private hospital system with part payment by the patients is an excellent arrangement. Of course, if paying wards were added to the larger hospitals to meet the needs of such patients, economy would result.

At the quarterly meeting of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, a report was received from the "Building" Committee, in which it was shown that in order to meet the needs of the hospital it is necessary to provide additional accommodation, and recommending that with this object in view detailed plans, specifications, quantities, and actual tenders be obtained for the erection of a suitable annexe to the hospital, such as would satisfy the existing requirements. The Board adopted the report and directed the Committee to obtain the plans, &c., recommended, and report the result to the Board. Dr. Rowlette was appointed Pathologist to the hospital in the room of the late Dr. Neville, and the Board adjourned.

The very fine new British Seamen's Hospital was opened at Constantinople last week in the presence of a large gathering of members of the British colony, representatives of British maritime and commercial interests, of the medical profession, and several members of the Diplomatic Body. The President of the Pera Municipality was also present. After prayers had been offered by the Rev. Mark Swabey, Mr. Townley, the British Chargé d'Affaires, dwelt on the importance of the institution, which, he said, was an honour to the country and the British name. Lady Susan Townley thereupon unlocked the main entrance of the hospital. Everything has been constructed on the most modern principles, at a cost of over £30,000. The hospital has accommodation for fifty patients.

Mrs. Ella D. Wilson, Lennox House, Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, invites subscriptions to the fund for erecting a Maternity Home in that place, where it is much needed. The intention of the directors of the home is that it shall meet the requirements of all classes and provide accommodation for those who are able to pay, those who can afford partial payments, and those to whom fees are an impossibility. A site has been given by the Town Council, but before the building can be begun a sum of over £1,000 is required. Towards this and the endowment fund which it is proposed to institute donations and annual subscriptions will be received by Mrs. Wilson, who mentions that the Government of the Orange River Colony has already granted the sum of £300 to the building fund, and has promised a yearly gift of £100, provided that private contributions of a like amount are secured.

A poison farm has been started by the American authorities on Potomac Flats, near Washington, with the idea of saving the £2,000,000 now annually paid for imported drugs. Large plots have been laid out for the culture of the deadly nightshade, belladonna, foxglove, and other deadly plants.

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