

since Dr. Osler had become the acting Regius Professor of Medicine, he thought it was only proper that someone should bear record to the great distinction which had been conferred on the hospital by a person of Dr. Osler's scientific and professional eminence being connected with it. He thought they might congratulate themselves on having the addition of a gentleman of the eminence of Dr. Osler to the staff of the infirmary.

The Hospital Saturday Collection on behalf of the Bedford County Hospital resulted in over £1,000 being received for the institution. The thanks of the Board have been recorded to Mrs. Alfred Paine and the committee of ladies who undertook the house collection, and by dint of hard work raised it from £109 last year to £273.

The new out-patient department of the Bradford Children's Hospital, rendered necessary by the growth of the work of that department of recent years, was opened on Wednesday last by Lord Mount Garret.

The Sheffield Infirmary, the Jessop Hospital for Women, and the University College, Sheffield, each benefit to the extent of £1,000 under the will of the late Mr. Thomas Wilson of that city.

A good many people, says the *Bystander*, have not yet got over the monkey theory of descent. They would be a great deal put about if the result of Mr. Burke's experiment were to prove that they derived their lineage from some sea-slug.

Under the heading of "Causes of Insanity," Dr. Havelock, Physician-Superintendent of Montrose Royal Lunatic Asylum, in his annual report has this sentence:—"Two persons were stated to have succumbed to a new disorder known as 'motor-mania,' a condition said to be induced by the strain of driving mechanically-propelled vehicles on the roads."

The Dutch Second Chamber has voted 700,000fl. (£58,300) for the purchase of a site in the park at The Hague, known as Zorgvliet, for Mr. Carnegie's Palace of Peace.

Despite the protests of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Board of Health of Jersey has ordered that in the interests of pure milk cows' tails must be tied up during milking.

The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital at Nice, which is being rapidly proceeded with, will be devoted to the relief of English-speaking people of the poorer classes in the neighbourhood of Nice and Monte Carlo. Sir Henry Samuelson, Chairman of the Executive Committee, has intimated his desire to carry out a complete isolation annexe and to dedicate it to the memory of his father, Sir Bernhard Samuelson, who died during the past spring. The King, who is the patron of the hospital, has been graciously pleased to approve that the annexe shall be called in perpetuity "the Sir Bernhard Samuelson annexe."

Surgeon-General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service, is taking every step in his power to meet the situation created by the epidemic of yellow fever at New Orleans. He is of opinion that forty more doctors will be needed.

Ambulance Dogs in War.

During the tactical operations between battalions of the Essex Brigade of Volunteers at Colchester this week, a feature of the manoeuvres was the use of Major Richardson's ambulance dogs, two Scotch collies similar to those sold by the Major to the Russians, and used in Manchuria. They worked among the casualties and ferreted out men hidden in the undergrowth. The dogs were harnessed and carried a flask of surgical bandages. They are trained to stay by the side of a wounded and unconscious man until help arrives, but should the fallen soldier be in a condition to help himself the dogs go off to another more urgent case.

A Novel Form of Insurance.

The general lines of the many forms of insurance are well known to the public, but very few are perhaps aware that the Casualty Insurance Company, Ltd., has created what may be described as a novel form of insurance. This consists of a policy that, in addition to the usual benefits payable for accidents of all kinds, whether they be of a temporary or permanent nature, or result in death, and a weekly indemnity against every sickness, entitles the policyholder contracting any sickness or disease, or being operated upon therefor, to a cash payment. The Casualty Insurance Company claims the distinction of being the first and only insurance office to introduce this unique form of insurance, and this up-to-date advance has met with the success it deserves, which is evident by the fact that, owing to the appreciation of the public, its daily growing business has increased to such a degree as to necessitate the company taking larger offices for the purpose of conducting it. Last week, at the invitation of the chairman (Mr. R. J. Price, M.P.) and the managing director (Mr. F. J. Lee Smith), a number of supporters of the company met to inaugurate the opening of the company's new offices at 7, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W., when the spacious rooms were well filled.

Court Fools and Dwarfs.

In *The First Romanovs* one finds interesting things about Court Fools and Dwarfs. The fools were of both sexes (it was ever thus), and even the abbesses of great monasteries, generally princesses, were not above being entertained by them. Manka, the female fool of Tsar Michael's mother, was very famous, and on her death a memorial hospital was built by her mistress. Dwarfs, as rare sports of Nature, a species of living doll, were also highly prized. Peter the Great when a child had six Court dwarfs to play with, and delighted in the society of dwarfs to the day of his death. There is a curious petition extant from the dwarf Ivashka, who during the great plague of Moscow in 1659, when the deserted city was a wilderness of snow drifts, was left behind in the *Kremlin* in charge "of four parrots and one old one," which he fed for twenty weeks on almond cakes, and "kept alive and well." "And as regards my patience and the feeding of thy sovereign birds," wrote the dwarf to the Tsar, "is it not all known unto the oven-heater Alexander Boshkov, who visited me every day and examined thy sovereign birds." It is pleasant to learn that Ivashka received the twenty roubles compensation which he had asked for his trouble.

HISTORICUS.

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