

withdrawn from capital, we can form some idea of the splendid charity of the rich in this land.

The League of Mercy has this year raised £17,500, an increase of £1,000 on the previous year, and it has therefore been decided to increase its grant to the King's Hospital Fund to £15,000.

Sir William Collins reported that grants had been made to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, the Holmesdale Cottage Hospital, the Cheshunt Cottage Hospital, the Watford District Hospital, the Faversham Cottage Hospital, the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Eastbourne; the Tunbridge Wells Homœopathic Hospital and Dispensary, the Victoria Hospital, Folkestone; the Brentwood District Cottage Hospital, the Queen Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospital, Herne Bay; the Enfield Cottage Hospital, the Hanwell Cottage Hospital, and the Hounslow Hospital.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London proposes that all the Throat and Ear Hospitals in the Metropolis shall be amalgamated to save expense. As the majority of the big hospitals have special departments dealing with the diseases of these organs, it might be well to have one really fine and up-to-date hospital built, instead of attempting, as so many little hospitals do, to go on their own.

A donation of £500 has been received by the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, from Mrs. Willock, making a total of £1,000 so far received towards the sum of £2,500 required by the 31st inst. to avoid a deficit on the year.

Otto Grünbaum, Esq., M.D.(Cantab.), M.R.C.P., D.Sc.(London), has been elected an Assistant Physician of the London Hospital.

The appeal committee of St. Bartholomew's Hospital acknowledge the receipt of a donation of £5,000 from Messrs. Werner, Beit and Co., towards the rebuilding fund, and also a donation of 50 guineas from Messrs. John K. Gilliat and Co. About £500 is the net result of the *matinée* at His Majesty's Theatre, we believe.

Katharine, Duchess of Westminster, on Saturday, opened, with a golden key, the new wing of the Victoria Infirmary at Northwich. This new wing will provide accommodation for additional beds, and is equipped with a magnificent operating theatre and surgical wards.

Captain E. Partington has announced to the members of the Glossop Town Council that as a Christmas box he intends to present to the borough a sum of £30,000 for the erection and endowment of a nursing and convalescent home for the sick poor of the town and for the provision of trained sick nurses. This magnificent gift was most gratefully acknowledged.

## Our Foreign Letter.

### THE PLAGUE IN ZANZIBAR.

The outbreak of plague in Zanzibar is of a severe type, for out of 135 cases there have been no less than



121 deaths. When it became necessary to remove the plague-stricken to hospital, and those who had been exposed to infection to

the segregation camp at Ziwani, there were the wildest rumours current. Those who were removed, so it was said, were carried off so that the doctors might make away with them. What further proofs were needed than that they were given red medicine, and that they never came out of hospital alive? Another rumour, widely believed, was that the doctors were going about the town pouring poison down the wells. There was a general exodus of Indians and Arabs from the town, and many Indians returned to Bombay.

When Miss Brewerton, who is well known and trusted by the natives, undertook the management of the plague hospital at Gulioni, and some convalescents were sent out, things began to mend. After all it might be that the intentions of the Government were not wholly evil, and when serum arrived for inoculation, although a few suggestions were heard, that this was only another Government stratagem to murder the innocent, large numbers of persons were anxious for inoculation.

The native of Zanzibar knows by experience the fatal effects of small-pox in the unvaccinated, and the protection afforded by vaccination, and he argued "If small-pox is prevented by putting cow's blood in people, why should not plague be prevented by horse's blood." The result was that the inoculation stations were besieged, and in less than a fortnight 7,000 had been inoculated.

Incidentally, one of the good effects of the plague has been that all houses were ordered to be cleaned and whitewashed, and the town is cleaner than it has ever been before. In one instance, it is said it was necessary to put disinfectants into the fire engine, and turn on the hose before anyone dare venture into the house.

The prompt measures taken by the Government afford ground for hope that the island will be saved from the great mortality of Bombay. At the present time in some streets there are whole clusters of houses with the three lines of paint, denoting that they have contained cases of plague, but it is hoped now that the epidemic is well in hand.

The Government are to be congratulated on having secured the help of Miss Brewerton. She is a first-rate nurse and organiser, and as she has been in Zanzibar since 1893 she knows the language well and understands the natives. It would not have been possible to find anyone who has so many qualifications to stand her in good stead for the present work.

UNGUJA.

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