

The Hospital World.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL LADIES' GUILD.

A most useful branch of work for the support of hospitals is the organisation of Leagues and Guilds, for supplying, or supplementing the stock of linen.

Charing Cross Hospital is fortunate in possessing an active Ladies' League which has two classes of members—the non-working, who give a minimum subscription of ten shillings per annum, and the working, who contribute five shillings and undertake to make four garments each year.

The result of the year's work was on view at the Hospital on Thursday in last week, when visitors were welcomed by the genial Matron, Miss Heather-Bigg, and by members of the committee. The chief feature of the afternoon was the presentation of a cot, fully equipped with bed linen, blankets, &c., and, indeed, everything, even to toys, connected with the equipment of a cot, by Miss Barbara Gibbs, the little daughter of Mr. Charles Gibbs, F.R.C.S., one of the hospital staff. The cot, which is painted blue, and is provided with dainty quilts representing nursery rhymes, in china-blue and white, is to be known as the Barbara Cot. The little donor, a happy, merry, child, is also responsible for collecting annually £30 towards the support of the cot, and presented the first cheque for this amount to the Earl of Kilmorey, Chairman of the Hospital, during the course of the afternoon.

Mrs. Charles Gibbs is one of the most active supporters of the League, and with Mrs. Eden, and Mrs. Carter Braine is responsible for cutting out all the garments made by the Guild, the result being uniformity in design and material.

The year's work of the Guild includes the supply of such useful and ever needed articles as men's shirts (53), women's nightdresses (46), women's bed jackets (51), children's bed jackets (18), men's bed jackets (2), children's overalls (2), children's nightgowns (2), besides sheets and draw sheets (in response to a special appeal from the Matron), locker-cloths, and other useful articles.

These were displayed at the show of work last week in piles on a table in the centre of the ward. Especially to be admired were the warm flannel shirts, piles of them, the nightdresses, not only in cotton but also flannelette, and the cosy dressing-gowns, in warm grey flannel with slippers to match, all thoroughly well made and serviceable, and were evidently much appreciated by the Sisters, who in their trim blue uniform and speckless caps and

aprons were taking the greatest interest in the show.

On another table was displayed the linen presented to Paget Floor, a floor endowed by Mrs. Arthur Paget, and containing a men's ward, named the "Minnie Paget," and a women's ward, "Surgical Number 6." Amongst the donors of sheets, draw-sheets, pillow-cases, towels, combinations, petticoats and other numerous and useful articles were Mrs. Charles Gibbs, Mrs. Basan, Mrs. Baker, Miss F. Northcroft, Miss Ethel West, and others, while Mrs. Willie Soper and Mrs. Henry Northcroft gave the linen for special cots.

The greatest amount of interest centred round the table adjoining the "Barbara Cot" on which were displayed a very complete equipment for the cot and its inmates. There were complete sets of under linen, as well as nightdresses, dressing-gowns, and shoes for children of three, five, and seven years of age respectively, with frocks and suits for the convalescents, as well as a liberal supply of bed-linen. Everything had been thought of and supplied with a most lavish hand.

To see the show was to realise how much may be done by interest, organisation, and painstaking work, and we hope the day may come when every hospital has its Ladies' League to render similar able assistance in the arduous task of providing the necessary bed-linen and the many garments used by the patients.

Tea was hospitably provided in an adjoining room for the visitors, and thoroughly enjoyed, the Matron and members of the nursing staff doing all in their power to make the occasion an eminently pleasant one to all concerned.

Lord Kilmorey on behalf of the Council of the Charing Cross Hospital has expressed his thanks to those who have so far responded to their appeal, and have sent or promised nearly £7,000 towards the £100,000 needed to pay off the debt which endangers the very existence of the hospital.

Owing to this debt the Council have had to close 54 beds, and 37 more must be dispensed with unless further funds are forthcoming.

He, therefore, strongly appealed to the charitable for large donations in order to raise the sum necessary to enable the hospital to carry on the great work it is daily doing in the centre of London. The Council is anxiously hoping for some kind benefactor to come forward to relieve the hospital of its incubus of debt, the interest charges on which, added to the falling off of subscriptions, cause a yearly deficit of £6,000. Donations will be most gratefully received by the Treasurer at the hospital.

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