

The Hospital World.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED MEDICAL STUDIES, NURSES' HOME, AND MATERNITY STUDENTS' HOUSE AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the above buildings by Sir Donald Currie, who gave £100,000 for its building (leaving a surplus of £20,000 for endowment) could but impress the invited guests with the wonderful generosity of the donor. And one could but feel glad that in these days, when so many of the London Hospitals are closing their wards and lifting up the distressed hands of poverty, that one man should open his purse strings so widely and generously, and hope, oh! so earnestly, that others will follow his example and prevent Britain's splendid voluntary hospitals from becoming municipalised and supported by rates and taxes! It was to be regretted, Sir Donald said, that there was so much difficulty in obtaining support for the many hospitals in this country and that the burden of maintenance should be thrown upon a few benevolent people. These did much to establish hospitals and to support them; but he felt the day would come and might be close at hand when the ratepayers or taxpayers of this country would require to do their part to uphold these Institutions.

It was delightful to see the Matron, Miss Finch, take her place amongst the distinguished Committee on the platform, while fifty of the nursing staff sat amongst the audience and the professors, the first looking so fresh, neat, clean, and dainty in their indoor uniforms, the latter in their gowns and robes of brilliant hues, giving a charming touch of colour and distinctiveness to the assembly.

The building is far advanced and enabled the Managing Committee to raise a handsome platform covered with rich red cloth most beautifully decorated with graceful palms and flowering plants, whilst the gallery and unfinished windows were draped with flags. A military band under the direction of Mr. F. W. Wood played charmingly and was a great addition to the programme of the afternoon. Several of the students acted as ushers and stewards, and one was met with courtesy at every turn and the whole thing was so well organised that it went without a hitch. Let me make a note of the fact that courtesy and organisation are the root of success [and administration.

In concluding his speech, Sir Donald seemed

to speak, as though the two were inevitably together in his mind, of the homes provided for the maternity medical students and for the nurses.

Would it not be a pity, he said, if this beautiful building, with its capabilities and excellent and practical arrangements, should not have the opportunity which we have looked forward to of great and increasing influence and usefulness? He rejoiced to know that the Nurses' Home, providing as it would accommodation for seventy nurses, was destined to fulfil all the expectations entertained with regard to it. He knew, he said, the value of good nursing, and all must acknowledge how important it is that nurses should have a comfortable home. It had been a great comfort to him and to those connected with him to be able to add sufficient to fit out the Nurses' Home (his three daughters gave £500 towards the furniture, providing piano and library) in addition to the building.

In regard to the students, he need hardly say how happy he was, and how glad all present must be, to feel that they will have the very best facilities and every comfort in carrying on their studies. He congratulated all connected with the University, the College, the Hospital, and the Medical School that these new buildings had been established under such happy auspices, and he had every confidence that they would be of great value both now and in the future.

Mr. Paul Waterhouse, the architect, handed the trowel and mallet, and while the stone was being lowered Dr. J. S. Risien Russell, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, read the inscription on the stone:—"This stone was laid by Sir Donald Currie, G.C.M.G., through whose munificence the School of Advanced Medical Studies, Nurses' Home, and the Maternity Students' House were erected in connection with University College Hospital, Monday, 11th June, 1906." Sir Donald then declared the stone to be well and truly laid, and the Bishop of Islington offered a prayer.

The band started the National Anthem, the audience singing heartily. A bouquet was presented to Lady Currie and a button-hole to Sir Donald by the Misses Olive Martin and Marjorie Johnson, two little maidens with bright faces, and the guests proceeded to the college grounds where refreshments were served.

And thus ended a function which had one grand and noble object—*i.e.*, higher and more advanced education and scientific research, to culminate in the practical relief of suffering humanity.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)