

The Hospital World.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, LONDON.

The event of the week in the hospital world was the formal opening of University College Hospital by the Duke of Connaught on Tuesday last. The ceremony took place in the large Out-patient Hall, the platform being decorated with palms, chrysanthemums, and heath, but indeed it needed little additional decoration, for its beautiful marble and alabaster walls, with handsome arches supported on blue pillars, afford an ideal decoration. One has only to contrast this handsome hall with the bare and comfortless rooms in which, not many years ago, the majority of out-patients were accommodated, to realise the strides which have been made in hospital construction of late years. By the express desire of the late Sir John Blundell Maple no pains or expense were spared to make this hall as perfect as possible, and had he lived to see its completion he must surely have been satisfied with the result.

The ceremony was announced for three o'clock, and whilst the visitors were assembling the Band of the Grenadier Guards performed an excellent selection of music.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught were received at the entrance of the hospital by the Duke of Bedford, President of the Hospital, Lord Reay, President of University College, Mr. Henry Lucas, Chairman of the Hospital Committee, and other members of the Reception Committee, all of whom were presented to the Duke, as well as the Matron, Miss Dora Finch, the Secretary, Mr. Newton H. Nixon, and the Architect, Mr. Paul Waterhouse.

The Royal party entered the Hall to the strains of the National Anthem. Amongst those who had seats on the platform were Baroness von Eckardstein, daughter of the late Sir John Blundell Maple, and the Baroness Hermine von Eckardstein, who presented a bouquet to the Duchess of Connaught.

The Duke of Bedford who, as President of the Hospital, presented an address, on behalf of the Hospital Committee and Medical Staff, to the Duke of Connaught stated that the Foundation Stone was laid in 1898 by his Majesty the King, then Prince of Wales when a new era in the history of the hospital was inaugurated. He expressed the deep regret of the Committee that Sir John Blundell Maple had not seen the completion of the new building erected by his munificence. Neither had the architect, Mr. Alfred Waterhouse lived to see the hospital finished, the latter part of the work being

carried out by his son and successor, Mr. Paul Waterhouse. The new hospital for nearly 300 patients, has ample accommodation, and was well equipped for the convenience of the sick and for the maintenance of the health of the nurses. The fact that warmth of the wards in winter and their coolness in summer is readily maintained had certainly aided in the recovery of the patients. A feature of the arrangements was that enteric cases were received into special wards, so that the risk of infection was diminished and thorough disinfection could be carried out. Another important department was the Electro-Therapeutic and Radiographic; a most useful addition, but one which involved considerable expense. It was also necessary at the present time to provide facilities for expert scientific examinations, and the top floor of one of the wings was devoted to this purpose.

When the new home, now being erected in University Street by the munificence of Sir Donald Currie, was complete there would be accommodation for a School of Advanced Medical Studies, for a private nursing staff, and for students attending midwifery cases. The Duke concluded by heartily thanking their Royal Highnesses for their presence.

Lord Reay then addressed his Royal Highness on behalf of the Council of University College, giving the history of the College from its foundation in 1826, and mentioning the names of many illustrious men connected with it.

The Duke of Connaught, who was loudly cheered, said that it was a great satisfaction to the Duchess and himself to associate themselves with the opening of the institution. From the remarks which fell from the Duke of Bedford they had learnt how with the increase of work the necessity arose for a new hospital more suited to modern days. He was happy to know that His Majesty the King had laid the foundation of the new hospital, and that the late beloved Queen from 1837 to the day of her death had been Patron.

He understood that 65,000 in and out-patients were annually treated. How was it possible to do without a new Hospital? He thought, and they all thought, of the deep debt of gratitude they owed to the late Sir John Blundell Maple for his noble generosity in his gift of £200,000.

The hospitals in London were many, large, magnificent, and well supported, yet the demands were still greater than could be met. Gratitude was therefore due to those charged with administration who were able to construct one on such admirable lines.

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