

The Hospital World.

A DAY IN A COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

Our cottage hospital was also the county hospital, so that in its way and in the eyes of the people it was a very important one. We had fourteen beds, almost always full and a busy out-patient department. It was Saturday, breakfast was over, there were the usual dressings to be done, a patient to massage for an hour; the market to be visited, for eggs at twenty for a shilling and fresh greenstuffs were to be bought there; the extra diets to see to, and the visiting doctors to be attended on their rounds, and we had five on our staff.

Dinner at twelve and out-patients at 2 p.m. and again at 4 p.m., we should perhaps have thirty or forty that afternoon, and I dispensed for them all. But about 2.30 p.m. one of our doctors came to say that an old man was coming in with a strangulated hernia; he had to come from a lonely little house on the hillside some two or three miles away, and so did not arrive until 4.30 p.m.; he was seated in a little donkey-cart, his old wife (both were over sixty), leading the donkey; a most pathetic little procession it looked as it came up to the hospital door. The old man was put to bed, examined by the doctors, and as soon as the out-patients had gone, the operation was performed. Knowing this was coming on, we had secured some tea about 3.30. And it was a good thing we did, for just as the evening work was finished, our little operating room once more spick and span, and the old man comfortably in bed, there was the noise of a moving crowd coming down the street and a young man was brought in more dead than alive from an awful cycling accident.

A doctor had been sent for who brought him to the hospital. All the small vessels of the thigh were severed, and we thought the femoral artery was also, and that he would die. We all, doctors and nurses, worked hard that night, his wound was dressed, the hæmorrhage was stopped and it was then found that the main artery was not injured. The next thing was to get the patient warm, we had him in front of a large fire with screens round the bed—hot bottles were in the bed and replenished every two hours, but it was morning before he was warm.

For many days and nights his life hung in the balance and the staff nurse and I shared the nights (in addition to our ordinary day work) for he was too ill to leave to a probationer.

The poor old Daddy was in danger of being forgotten, but fortunately he was a very good patient, and both he and the young man made excellent recoveries.

"M. M. C."

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



The Duchess of Albany has consented to be the first patron of the new Hospital for Infants now in course of erection at Vincent Square, Westminster. This hospital, which is the first in Europe where infants have been scientifically treated for malnutrition, was established in temporary premises in Hampstead early in 1903. The new building, which will contain fifty cots, is being erected by a member of the committee entirely at his own expense.

The Duchess of Albany last week opened the new Children's Infirmary at Liverpool, which has been erected at a cost of £68,000. Her Royal Highness was first entertained at luncheon, at the Town Hall, where she was received by the Lord Mayor, and afterwards drove to Myrtle Street, where the hospital has been erected. The opening ceremony took place in the adjoining gymnasium—where sixty-four little boys and girls presented purses in aid of the hospital furnishing fund.

University College Hospital, which, though managed by its own Committee, has been hitherto governed by the Council of the College, is now to be entirely separated from the College, and its subscribers and governors will now be an independent corporation. Referring to this important change at the Annual General Meeting at the Hospital last week, Mr. Henry Lucas, who presided, said that in future the Committee of the Hospital would have to provide for the instruction of the students, and to see after their discipline as well as their studies. Some fear might perhaps exist lest the school of medicine should become a burden on the finances of the hospital; but that could not happen, because the hospital and the school would be kept absolutely distinct, and would be controlled by two separate committees. The Duke of Bedford has been elected President and Mr. Henry Lucas Hon. Treasurer of the new corporation.

The net receipts of the Hospital Saturday Fund for 1906 were £29,152, an increase of £359 on the the previous year.

The new out-patient department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which will probably be the finest in the Kingdom, is now rapidly approaching completion. It has eight special departments, and its waiting hall will seat 850 persons.

It is proposed to amalgamate the scheme for the Surgical Hospital for Gentlewomen with that for a Memorial Hospital to the late Colonel William Wallingford and Mrs. Knollys, to be known as the Knollys Memorial Hospital. The original object of the institution, which is to provide for the reception of patients on a graduated scale, suited to all purses, remains the same. The Secretary of the scheme is Miss Wortabet, 18, Cambridge Street, W.

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