

Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

EXTENSION OF THE NURSES' HOME.

The increase in the number of patients at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., has rendered necessary a considerable addition to the Nurses' Home, which was opened in 1899, and on Tuesday last her Royal Highness Princess Alexander of Teck opened the Extension, together with the New Residential College for Students.

The opening ceremony took place in a marquee, tastefully lined with white and maize-coloured muslin, where a large number of visitors assembled. The Princess was received at the entrance to the Extension of the Home by Lord Portman, President of the Hospital, and after Sir Samuel Scott, the Chairman, and others, had been presented, proceeded to the marquee, where a bouquet of lovely roses was presented by Miss Margaret Schilizzi, after which an Address describing the development of the work of the hospital since its foundation 150 years ago, was read by Lord Portman. This stated that the Extension building will provide additional accommodation for about 35 nurses, each of whom will have a separate sleeping apartment, as in the original building.

In connection with the erection of the new building, the Residential College for Medical Students has also been extended, and now provides accommodation for 16 students. The Committee were guided in making this increased accommodation for medical students by the advice of the medical staff, who were anxious that this hospital—the only one of its kind in London to admit medical students to its practice—should make provision to enable students to comply with the recommendation of the General Medical Council with regard to increased instruction in practical midwifery.

The Princess declared the building open in the following terms:—"I have very much pleasure in declaring this much needed extension of Queen Charlotte's Hospital open."

After prayer had been offered by the Chaplain, the Rev. Vincent G. Borradaile, her Royal Highness received purses on behalf of the building fund, and it was a pretty sight to see the tiny tots of children, fresh and dainty in gala frocks, presenting their offering and dropping it into the silver rose bowl provided for this purpose.

Sir Samuel Scott, the Chairman, then briefly reviewed the history of the institution, showing that in 1809, in which year the hospital was removed to Marylebone, the number of in-patients was 97, and of out-patients 151.

Last year the number of in-patients was 1,701 and of out-patients 1,996.

Dr. Rivers Pollock, in an interesting speech, expressed the thanks of the medical staff to her Royal Highness for her visit, and Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., also spoke eloquently as to the good work of the hospital.

He alluded to the saving of maternal and infantile lives by the employment of skilled midwives, and said that it was the glory of the hospital that whereas the infantile death rate is 140 per thousand in the first year, in the hospital it is 20 per thousand.

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, the Princess visited the new building, and then crossed the road to the hospital and inspected the wards. The open corridor connecting the marquee with the Home was lined by members of the nursing staff looking very fresh and smart in their spotless white uniforms.

Infanticide and Live Birth.

In reference to a private Member's Bill before the House of Commons, having for its object the protection of infant life by making it a crime punishable with penal servitude for life to destroy the life of a child during birth and before the child shall have been fully born, *The Lancet* points out that the demand for such a measure is certainly supported by two recent inquests held by Dr. F. J. Waldo in the City and Southwark Courts upon the bodies of infants, one of which was found under the seat of a railway carriage and the other beneath the flooring of a house in Southwark. In both cases the evidence plainly showed that the child had been born at the full term, and disclosed no reason why death should have supervened. In one case it was evident that death had been caused by suffocation. It was impossible, however, in either case, to show by evidence based upon post-mortem examination that either child had had that existence separate and independent of the mother, which is necessary to constitute the crime of murder on the part of him who wilfully destroys the newly begun life. Consequently open verdicts were returned, and had the mother of either child been ascertained, and had she been apprehended, no crime beyond that of concealment of birth could have been charged against her, with any expectation of her conviction. At the inquests referred to Dr. Waldo informed the juries of the state of the law, and stated that out of 256 cases in which coroner's juries had found that murder had been committed at the time of birth, or soon after, none had been found to be supported by the evidence necessary to secure conviction on that charge at the Old Bailey. Dr. Waldo also was of the opinion that infanticide was on the increase, and that the possibility of receiving severe punishment might act as a deterrent to prevent the cruel doing away with their offspring by mothers.

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