

In an address given by Dr. Charles N. Smith to the Ohio State Nurses' Meeting, we find the following stimulating words:—

"We welcome you not as servants, not as assistants, but as associates, whom we recognise as willing and able to divide and lighten our labours, to share our responsibilities, to place the crown of success upon our labours, and with whom we are ever ready and willing to share the honours. . . . The thought has frequently occurred to me, when completing some desperate operation, that the operation has only made it possible for the patient to live, but that the nurse who stays on the case will make it impossible for her to die."

#### WELCOME HELP.

We acknowledge with many thanks the following donations towards the expenses of the Nurses' Registration Bill:—

	£	s.	d.
A Certificated Nurse . . .	3	3	0
Miss Isabel Dodd . . . . .	5	0	

### Reflections.

#### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

The Lord Mayor occupied the chair at the opening of the Central Poor Law Conference in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall on Tuesday, and welcomed the delegates. The President, Dr. T. J. Macnamara, M.P., outlined his ideal system of poor law administration, which would promptly and sympathetically meet the needs of the infirm, the needy, the suffering, and especially the children. The Conference, with only three dissentients, adopted a resolution moved by Mr. Theodore Dodd, of Oxford, "That the proposals of the Poor Law Commission for transferring the administration of the Poor Law to authorities not directly elected for Poor Law purposes are unwise, and should be rejected."

The report of Lord Sandhurst, as Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, for 1908 refers to the fact that there is now an excess of expenditure over income of about £12,000 per annum. Like all other London Hospitals, St. Bartholomew's has had to spend large sums in order to meet the requirements of modern medical science, and no less a sum than £164,251 18s. 4d. has been obtained on loan, which involves an annual charge of £5,072. Although founded by a miracle, it cannot be expected that the hospital should be maintained by one, and it is therefore necessary to face the financial position. In Lord Sandhurst's opinion either additional income by means of annual subscriptions, or otherwise, must be secured or the work be at once materially curtailed in order to reduce expenditure.

We are glad to observe that the Treasurer directs attention to the unsatisfactory and inadequate accommodation for the nursing staff, and says that the necessity of building a new Nurses' Home has long been recognised as one of the most urgent

needs of the hospital. He also expresses his extreme anxiety as to the possibility of a fire in certain parts of the Home, owing to the consequences which must ensue.

Princess Alexander of Teck has consented to open the new wing to the "Hostel of God" (the Free Home for the Dying) at 29, North Side, Clapham Common, on Monday afternoon, May 3rd.

The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women (University of London), 8, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, will re-open for the summer session on Monday, May 3rd. Scholarships will be awarded on the result of an examination to be held in September. Miss Enid M. Walters, a student of the school, has been awarded the Gilchrist Studentship for Women by the University of London.

The Duke of Northumberland will preside at the annual dinner of the Royal Sanitary Institute to be held on May 11th.

The Kensington Poor Law Guardians have decided to ask the Local Government Board whether any inmate of the Workhouse Infirmary may be deemed by the public vaccinator for that institution to be a person in "good health" for the purposes of the third schedule of the Board's Order of 1898, which says:—"Except so far as any immediate danger of small-pox may require, the public vaccinator must vaccinate only subjects who are in good health."

Near the South Gate of the Zoological Gardens an infirmary for the wild animals and birds is being erected, with an operating theatre, a post-mortem room, and an anatomical and pathological laboratory. This hospital, which is to be ready for use about midsummer, will be large enough not only to contain the furred, feathered, and other patients of ordinary times, but even to cope with an epidemic. Hitherto the gardens have had no infirmary. Up to the present ailing creatures have had to be treated in their own cages, and without the special means which the new building will contain.

The Royal Commission appointed to inquire how far tuberculosis is communicable from cattle to the human species has definitely reported that there is grave danger through the medium of meat and milk. Owing to the admitted prevalence of tuberculosis in British cattle, coupled with the frequent inequitable administration of the Public Health Acts, which does not efficiently protect the public from this dangerous disease, the National Federation of Meat Traders has determined to demand, on and after May 3rd, the vendor's warranty with all fat stock bought in good faith for the food of man.

Upon the proposition of Dr. Elsworth the Board of Management of the Swansea Hospital refused to entertain the application of a woman for the position of House Physician, and have advertised the post, to which "only men need apply."

A children's block is to be built with Mr. Leslie

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