

Progress at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The fine, new Pathological Block, which is situated between King Henry VIII. Gateway and the Hospital Library, was opened by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, on the 7th inst.

The Lord Mayor on his arrival was received by Lord Sandhurst (the Treasurer), the Almoners, Dr. Norman Moore (the Senior Physician), Mr. W. Harrison Cripps (the Senior Surgeon), Dr. Andrewes (Pathologist to the Hospital), Dr. Drysdale, and Miss Stewart (Matron and Superintendent of Nursing), and, after having inspected the new building, proceeded to the Great Hall, where an address was presented by Lord Sandhurst on behalf of the Governors, in which he referred to the happy relations which have existed between St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the City of London for many centuries. In offering cordial thanks to the Lord Mayor for finding time to perform the opening ceremony, he remarked: "It is just seven hundred years since your first predecessor in the Chief Magistracy of the City of London, Henry Fitz-Ailwin, came here to make arrangements with St. Bartholomew's Hospital as to the burial in land near it of any citizens who might die during the general interdict which was proclaimed on March 23rd, 1208. This event, in the reign of King John, is the earliest public transaction which is known to have taken place between the Mayor of London and this ancient hospital. During the seven subsequent centuries, and especially since the alteration of the constitution of the hospital under King Henry VIII., the relations between the Lord Mayor and St. Bartholomew's have been constant, to the great advantage of the hospital."

In his eloquent reply, the Lord Mayor said that just as the new Pathological Block meant an era of increased usefulness for the hospital, to the benefit not only of the citizens of London but for the great world outside, so the City of London laboured not for the few but for the Metropolis and the country at large.

After referring to the great advances which had in recent years been made in connection with curative and preventive medicine, he said he wished to draw the attention of the Guilds, the merchant princes, the Corporation, and the public of London to the present financial position of the hospital, arising out of the desire of the Governors that the institution should be brought up to date, and made, as it ought to be, one of the best hospitals in the world, for it should not be difficult for a great city like London to support the one hospital in its midst. Apart from the new building, he believed the hospital had a great future, for its President, the Prince of Wales, had informed him of the great and keen interest he took in the hospital and in its financial position, and, further, they had in Lord Sandhurst a Treasurer of whom they might well be proud.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Lady Mayoress, who was prevented by indisposition from being

present, thanked the Matron, Miss Isla Stewart, and the nurses for the help they had afforded her in connection with the Territorial Nursing Scheme, and for making it possible for it to be said that St. Bartholomew's was the first hospital in their centre to have its complete complement of nurses.

The Lord Mayor having been presented with a beautiful key, formally declared the new building open.

Full provision has been made in the new building for the pathological work of the hospital and medical school. This work falls under three heads—the examination of diseased products from the wards, operating theatres, and post-mortem room with a view to diagnosis; the teaching of the students; and the carrying on of original research, by which the opportunities afforded in the practice of the hospital are used in the advancement of knowledge.

In the basement are the mortuary chapel and the mortuary, in which provision has been made for the reverent treatment of the dead—a department which in future will be superintended by a trained nurse.

After the opening ceremony refreshments were served in the Hospital Quadrangle, where the band of the Honorable Artillery Company performed a delightful selection of music.

Let us hope that no more "Blocks" stand between the nursing staff and the long-awaited Nurses' Home.

The Law of the Lash.

The 18th annual meeting of the Humanitarian League was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel on April 29th, when several members of the House of Commons took part in the proceedings and the Report for 1908-1909 was adopted unanimously.

The Report of the Criminal Law and Prisons Committee is a record of steady progress in various fields of work. The success of the Criminal Appeal Act is noted with satisfaction, as also is the appointment of a Select Committee on the treatment of imprisoned debtors and the increasing demand for a revision of the law relating thereto; and the League has not relaxed its opposition to the use of the cat-o'-nine-tails as a judicial punishment for men. It is noted that the confident assertions made in many quarters that Mr. Justice Lawrence's sentences of flogging would "stamp out" violent crime in Cardiff, have already been falsified, while the flogging of tramps and vagrants for begging and sleeping out appears to have been put a stop to. In India a great measure of reform, "The Whipping Amendment Act," which restricts the power of inflicting corporal punishment to first-class magistrates and lessens the number of offences which may be so punished, reduces the number of stripes, and exempts juveniles over a certain age from that penalty, was passed on March 22nd last.

It is also a cause for satisfaction that, as a result to this Society's efforts, the most objectionable features of "The Prevention of Crime Bill" were removed.

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