

## The Hospital World.

The annual meeting of the West London Hospital Ladies' Association—a society which is doing most excellent work for the patients in that hospital—was held on Friday, May 6th, in the Post-Graduate College. The Countess of Dartrey was in the chair, and the report made clear what a great amount of good work has been accomplished by the Association.

Through the Samaritan Fund 133 patients were during the year sent to convalescent homes, 20 received surgical appliances, and 29 urgent cases received food and clothes. No less than 6,000 cups of tea were consumed by patients in the out-patients' department, and the considerable sum of £240 was given by these patients in the short space of eleven months. Two thousand and sixty-three picture postcards of the hospital had been sold through the Matron, Miss Nevile. Amongst the sums received were a legacy of £200 free of legacy duty, and £240 19s. collected by Mary Countess of Ilchester towards the proposed Nurses' Home.

Dr. Drewitt referred to the success of the tea stall inaugurated by Mrs. Stephen Paget. Although the tea stand was only a small bedroom washstand 18 inches square, the out-patient department was so crammed with patients that until the rush began to lessen it was impossible to make room for it in the waiting room.

Like most societies managed by women, the association is financially flourishing, and closes the year with a balance to its credit at the bank of £550. Lady Phillimore, Mayoress of Kensington, and Lady Joicey, were added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

The Bishop of Kensington pleaded eloquently for increased support for the hospital, and especially commended the personal interest taken by the Ladies' Association in the hospital. The London public as a rule, he said, were prone to delegate their responsibility to other people. Further, the Association was helping to lift the reproach from the West of London in regard to the hospital, although it threw into extraordinary relief the prevailing apathy. It was, said his Lordship, disgraceful that the nurses of the hospital should be in the position they were in regard to accommodation. There were in his diocese a dozen of the largest hospitals, and some twenty-five hospitals and infirmaries in all. He knew them from the kitchen to the attics, and it was a rare thing not to find comfortable accommodation for the nursing staff. It did not reflect credit on the wealthy borough of Kensington that the nurses

of the West London Hospital should be housed as they were. Last year £500 was collected for the hospital, chiefly in pennies. This was a fact to flourish in the face of the prosperous people of Kensington as a rebuke to their apathy and indifference. In his diocese he had some of the wealthiest districts of the Metropolis, and the worst slums, but if he wanted money for any purpose it would be given, he knew, more readily and liberally by the people in the little red brick houses than by those in the mansions of the West End.

After the meeting tea was served in the Board Room, and then many visitors availed themselves of the opportunity to see the wards which look very bright, and spotlessly clean and comfortable, and also the show of warm garments made or supplied by members of the Ladies' Association. Warm dressing gowns and nightgowns, flannel shirts, and petticoats, woollies for the babies, and many other useful things were there in abundance.

## Reflections.

### FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

A remarkable judgment was delivered in the House of Lords on April 15th, to the effect that any person may lawfully practise any part of surgery, medicine, or dentistry, and that the law does not prohibit the use of self-laudatory language provided that the language used does not imply the possession of the qualifications which would entitle the holder to registration. The medical and dental professions consider such a pronouncement terribly dangerous for the public, and when Parliament reassembles it is probable a two-clause Bill will be introduced providing that no unregistered person shall habitually, or for gain, practise medicine, surgery, or dentistry, and making it illegal for any unregistered practitioner to fill up a medical certificate or any document purporting to be such. This would put the practice of medicine and dentistry on the same footing as midwifery. A woman who is not qualified or registered may, on emergency, help in a case, but she must not do it "habitually or for gain." Midwifery is thus protected from the quack. Why not medicine and surgery?

The Royal Ear Hospital in Dean Street, Soho, the oldest special hospital for the treatment of ear diseases in Europe, is under the bondage of a heavy mortgage debt, incurred six years ago in rebuilding to meet modern requirements. It is hoped that assistance will soon be forthcoming in the heavy task of raising £5,000 to enable this old foundation to remain in the future, as it has been in the past, one of the great centres of the realm for the relief of pain and suffering.

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