

Opening of Leeds Maternity Hospital.

Leeds new Maternity Hospital was formally opened at noon on May 23rd. The sun shone, while the soft breezes brought welcome coolness. Overhead was a blue sky, and even the smoke from industrial Leeds did not ascend to Hyde Terrace, where the new hospital is situated.

Many kind friends of the hospital were seated on the balcony at the side of the hospital. In the centre of a group of nurses, in neat out-door uniform, was Miss Edwards, the newly-appointed Matron, in a navy-blue uniform dress and becoming white cap.

The Lord Mayor occupied the chair, and the Dedication Service was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Ripon and the Vicar of Leeds, the whole audience joining in the sweet singing of "Now Thank We All Our God."

Mrs. Robert Hudson, the Hon. Secretary, read the President's address, in which the opening of the first maternity hospital in Leeds, four years ago, was referred to, and the good work done in a small way was described, as the hospital contained but sixteen beds.

Over one thousand cases have been treated by the Maternity Hospital, many of these being external cases attended by the district midwife.

A word of thanks was given to the honorary workers, who investigated all cases, visited the hospital, and collected funds; to the honorary medical staff for their skill and kindness, and to the nursing staff for their efficient services.

Thirty midwives have been trained at the old Maternity Hospital, and have gained the C.M.B. certificate, while twenty-three nurses have been given the hospital certificate as monthly nurses. The present building, with the grounds attached, was presented to Leeds for the purpose of a maternity hospital. It has been altered and fitted up at the cost of £7,000, and now contains sixty beds in all, thirty-three of these being available for patients, the others being for the staff, both nursing and domestic.

£5,000 has already been subscribed, and the Committee asked for another £5,000, so as to start with a small sum in hand.

The address then dealt with the future of the hospital, and its twofold aims—viz., to save life and preserve health; to train nurses and midwives for work principally in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The Committee were happy in having secured Miss Edwards, of the Liverpool Maternity Hospital, as Matron, and Miss Moor, of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, as Assistant Matron, and an adequate staff of nurses.

A word of praise was accorded to the Misses Marsh, and especially to Miss Caroline Marsh, who had been an indefatigable worker.

The Mayor followed with a happy little speech, and called upon Mrs. Kendal to open the hospital.

Thereupon Mrs. Kendal, charming as ever,

stepped to the front of the platform and said, in a loud, sweet voice: "I formally announce the Leeds Maternity Hospital to be now open." She then went on to say how pleased she was to be there at the beginning of such an institution, "started by those in the sunshine for those in the shadows of life." She knew that the mothers would appreciate the kindness and skill shown them in their dark day. She hoped that all the babies who should first see the light in Leeds Maternity Hospital would grow up to be good citizens.

Mrs. Kendal spoke very feelingly about the whole world being at present in mourning, and said how glad she was that this opening ceremony had not been postponed, because she was sure that its object was one which would appeal to the Queen Mother even in the midst of her sorrow. Mrs. Kendal went on to tell of Queen Mary's sympathy for the little ones, and of her numerous visits to the slums of East Lambeth.

The speaker ended by describing herself as a "working woman," and her own contribution to the hospital as a "tiny gift." She then presented to the hospital a large framed picture of the Queen Mother, and also one of Queen Mary, with the hope that these might be the first pictures to adorn the walls of the new Maternity Hospital.

Mrs. Kendal was warmly thanked for her services and charming speech, and the hospital was characterised as an "Institution for the service of God and of woman."

Mrs. Bickersteth, who moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, dwelt on the educational value of such an institution to the poor mothers, and on the privilege of supporting such a charity.

As the company were about to separate Mrs. Kendal called for three cheers for Queen Mary, which were heartily given. The singing of the National Anthem then brought the morning's programme to a close.

MACK ALL.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The Council of the British Medical Association states in its annual report, published in the Supplement to the *British Medical Journal*, that it has adopted the following recommendations of the Ophthalmia Neonatorum Committee, and taken the necessary action to carry them into effect.

(a) That the Local Government Board be urged to take all steps in its power with a view to ophthalmia neonatorum being made compulsorily notifiable, and that the Divisions of the Association be requested to urge this upon the Local Authorities.

(b) That the Divisions of the Association be urged to use every effort to secure the carrying out of the suggestions contained in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), and (f) of the Recommendations as finally approved.

(c) That representations be made to the Central Midwives' Board and Privy Council, by deputation if necessary, that the presence of purulent vaginal discharges should be included by the rules of the Midwives' Board among the conditions for which medical help should be summoned.

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