

Catholic Home for providing trained nurses for the sick poor in their own homes was held last week at the institution, 34, Rutland Square, West, Dublin.

The annual report states:—

“The year which ended on October 31st, 1910, was one of expansion and increase of work at St. Lawrence’s Home. Nineteen nurses were trained during the past year for the special work, and of these, fourteen have been already sent to different places throughout Ireland, including eight new districts which are now served by Jubilee Nurses. The work done amongst the sick poor in Dublin during the year may be summarised as follows:— 3,614 cases have been attended, of which 2,697 recovered, 440 were removed to hospital, or otherwise ceased to be under the nurses’ care, 246 died, and 231 still remain on the books. The total number of visits paid was 60,167. In the previous year the total number of cases was 2,624, and the visits paid 53,374, so that this year 1,000 more cases have been attended, and nearly 7,000 more visits have been paid. The financial position of the Home is satisfactory. With the aid of the generous donations and subscriptions received, we have paid all our debts, and enter upon the new year with a balance to credit of £139 10s. 1d. Public attention has lately been directed in an especial manner to the poorer classes of our city, and the conditions under which they live, and much has been said and written as to the brightening of their homes. To anyone who is really interested in the subject, much matter for reflection would be afforded by a visit to the homes attended by St. Lawrence’s Nurses, and a comparison with other homes of the same class, which have not had the benefit of the nurses’ care. Attention to the patient is not the sole duty or object of our nurses. They endeavour also by their cheerful presence and bright example to lift up to a higher level the homes of the poor, and, where it is necessary, to teach the principles of cleanliness, ventilation, sobriety, and decent living.”

We hope that the sentiments expressed by Mr. M’Mahon at a meeting of the Guardians of the Ennistymon Union are unique. On an application being made for £11, the amount of the funeral expenses of Miss Roden, of the Mater Misericordia Hospital, Dublin, who died while nursing typhus fever patients in the workhouse hospital, Mr. M’Mahon inquired whether they were bound to pay these expenses, upon which the Master pointed out that the nurse had sacrificed her life there. Mr. M’Mahon retorted that she was well paid for her services, and “it was her duty to sacrifice her life.” We are glad to say that the Board on the motion of the Chairman, decided to pay the expenses. What sum we wonder does Mr. M’Mahon consider good pay for the skilled work, and life laid down, of this devoted nurse? It seems inconceivable that so callous a reference could be possible to such a tragedy.

Reflections.

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Hearty congratulations to the Royal Free Hospital, to which is attached the School of Medicine for Women. By the will of the late Mr. H. Silver, whose personal estate amounted to £1,197,867, the hospital has become entitled to a munificent legacy of £50,000. The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea, are to receive £25,000 each. The will continues: “Nurse Ellen Brown, who so faithfully nursed my late dear wife, and has lately been in attendance on me,” is to have an annuity of £500 a year.

All the hospitals, after a strenuous year, would like a Christmas box; indeed, they could make use of unlimited gifts in support of their work for the community.

The King’s Hospital Fund and the Hospital Sunday Fund have just announced that between them they have awarded £226,500 to hospitals and nursing institutions. This is a splendid record of voluntary charity, and still not enough for the ever-increasing demands of scientific medical treatment.

A Special Committee of Inquiry into the method prevailing in the London voluntary hospitals has been appointed by the Governors of King Edward’s Hospital Fund. The terms of reference are as follows: “To consider and report generally as to the circumstances and conditions under which patients are admitted to the casualty and out-patient departments of the London voluntary hospitals, and especially as to what precautions are taken to prevent the admission of persons who are unsuitable, and as to whether adequate provision is made for the admission of such persons as are suitable; and to make such recommendations as may seem to them desirable.”

The Italian Ambassador, accompanied by the Marchesa Imperiali, will open the recently erected extension of the Italian Hospital, Queen Square, on Saturday, January 7th, in celebration of the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen of Italy on January 8th. The new building, which with the site is the gift of Mrs. Angiola Ortelli, widow of the founder of the hospital, will be devoted to promoting the conveniences of the staff, and will include a new operating theatre and enlarged out-patient department, additional comfort for the nursing staff, and a laundry. The building does not provide for any increase in the number of beds either now or in the future.

Lady Vincent has been anxious for some time past to give to Sheffield some memorial worthy of Sir Howard’s affection and loyalty for the city which he represented in Parliament for over 22 years. After considering various schemes, Lady Vincent has been in communication with the authori-

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