

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

## THE HEART HOSPITAL, SOHO SQUARE, W

Tucked away in a corner of Soho Square is the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, which is located in a fine old house which used to be occupied by Sir Joseph Banks, a distinguished devotee of natural science, who accompanied Captain Cook on his voyage of discovery in the Pacific Ocean in 1768, when he was commissioned to discover the transit of Venus. Sir Joseph Banks availed himself to the full of his opportunities, made large collections, and in 1771 brought home numerous specimens from Tahiti, Tierra de Fuego, New Zealand, and Australia, which he willingly placed at the disposal of his fellow-scientists for purposes of study. He was elected President of the Royal Society in 1778, was made a member of the Privy Council, and invested with the Order of the Bath. He showed the greatest hospitality to scientists of all nations, and his house in Soho Square, his collections, and his library were always open to them. He also took a great interest in the management of Kew Gardens, and through his instrumentality many plants and fruits were introduced into our Colonies. It was he who suggested the foundation of a Colony at Botany Bay.

Now the doors of the house are open to a different class—the sufferers from diseases of the heart—which need the most skilful medical treatment, the most scientific and tender care which trained nursing can afford—so science still holds sway in the house, which shows hospitality as of yore.

Naturally its present occupants are proud of their illustrious predecessor, but the adaptation of a private house for hospital purposes has its drawbacks, as we all know.

The Matron, Miss Maxwell-Moffat, points with pride to the beautiful "Adams" mantelpieces which adorn the wards. A great vaulted ceiling is also very fine, but in these days, when we know that scientific principles should be applied to house cleaning, it must vex the righteous souls who desire to attack it with brush and duster, as it is quite out of reach, and indeed the Matron says its periodical cleansing is shirked even by the whitewashers, who have to erect a scaffolding before they can reach it, and the process is a risky one.

The little hospital has twenty-five beds, and rest is made a great feature in the treatment of the patients. When weather and their condition permit they are able to enjoy the fresh air in the gardens of the Square.

## REFLECTIONS.

## FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.

Presiding at the annual meeting of the Florence Nightingale Hospital for Gentlewomen, at Lisson Grove, Marylebone, last week, Lord Waldegrave said they had had a most successful year. Their institution was being regarded as a model for all people who were trying to do the same work as they. With regard to the new wing, it was thought £5,000 would be required, towards which sum £4,400 odd had been collected. Certain requirements, however, would bring the sum needed up to £6,000, and it would be a great disappointment if they could not open it free of debt, as they did the present building.

Mrs. Harriette Cooke Smith has left a splendid gift to the hospital. The Woodclyffe estate for the foundation of a convalescent home, to be known as "The Woodclyffe Home," and £20,000 for the endowment thereof. We congratulate the Committee of the Florence Nightingale Hospital—the class of patients admitted, poor gentlewomen, are often in the direst need.

Lady Juliet Duff is organising a Café Chantant to be held at the Savoy Hotel, in aid of the Charing Cross Hospital Fund, on May 15th. No doubt this function will be a great success.

It was announced at the annual meeting of the Eugenics Education Society last June that an International Congress on Eugenics was being arranged. This, the first of its kind, will be held at the University of London, from July 24th to 30th next. Major Leonard Darwin will be the president.

By means of this Congress it is hoped to make more widely known the results of the investigations of those factors which are making for racial improvement or decay; to discuss to what extent existing knowledge warrants legislative action; and to organise the co-operation of existing societies and workers by the formation of an International Committee or otherwise.

During the Congress an exhibition will be held, and a large selection of exhibits from Germany, including a loan from the Race Hygiene Section of the Dresden Exhibition, America, France, Italy, and Switzerland, has been promised. The English exhibits will include a collection of Darwin relics lent by Miss Darwin. Mrs. Alec Tweedie is the hon. secretary of the entertainment committee, which has arranged receptions by the Duchess of Marlborough, the Lord Mayor, and the University of London.

Lady Stirling Maxwell presided at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary Association of the Glasgow Royal Samaritan Hospital for Women. Including a donation sent to the meeting by the Hon. President, Lady Blythwood, the Association has raised during the year £1,824.

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