

## RECUPERATIVE HOSTELS:

### FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS, ALSO MEN OF THE MERCANTILE MARINE, INVALIDED THROUGH NERVE STRAIN.

By the kindness of Lady Gort, a meeting was held at her house, 15, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., on April 28th, on behalf of the above scheme. The Right Hon. Sir Frederick Milner, Bart., Chairman of the General Committee, presided. The room was packed to its greatest capacity with an appreciative audience. Letters of regret for non-attendance were read from various persons. In his opening remarks, the speaker said that in spite of cold water that some had thrown upon the enterprise, the Committee was a determined body and meant to carry on the work; he paid a special tribute to the work of Mrs. Clarke, and he expressed his pleasure that she had undertaken the management of the first hostel at Hampstead, to which she would bring, he said, great experience and great intelligence. Sir Frederick told the audience that he had travelled all over the United Kingdom since the war broke out, visiting hospitals, and had spoken personally with 85,000 wounded men; the most pitiable of all were the nerve-stricken men, the sight of whom had filled him with a passionate desire to do something for them. No possible excuse, he declared, could be made for sending these heroic men who had done so much for their country, to pauper lunatic asylums, where many are still being sent; although eminent medical men have said, that under proper care and treatment they are curable. The first hostel at Hampstead will be ready for the occupation of patients in about three weeks' time; many applications have already been received. Mrs. Parker, sister to the late Lord Kitchener, who is working in connection with the K. of K. Association, made an earnest appeal for sympathy and practical help. "Let us take up this matter," she said, "and show the Government what can be done." Dr. Susan White emphasized the fact that whereas no civilian could be sent to an asylum without being properly certified, this was not so with the men of the Army and Navy—who could be placed there without that necessary procedure! She went on to say that the Prince of Wales' Fund had made a grant of £10,000 which had been allocated for special hospitals for officers suffering from nerve strain, but a similar sum had been absolutely refused for the rank and file. Dr. White, like Sir Frederick Milner, spoke with indignation of the men being placed in lunatic asylums, where 20,000 beds were being used for our soldiers. Although not placed actually with the insane, she maintained that the association and environment were exceedingly bad for them, as they very well knew where they were. Dr. Risien Russell, the eminent neurologist, who is also a member of the medical staff, expressed his great satisfaction in the Recuperative Hostels scheme, as it provided, he said, for *individual* treatment, which was so

essential in nerve cases; in like manner he congratulated the Committee in providing for the after-care of the patients. Dr. Stewart Mackintosh gave an interesting account of a patient of his own, who, he said, improved greatly while he was receiving individual attention, but as soon as he was placed in a military hospital, he went back steadily; there was no fault with the hospital, but the military element, and the association of ideas were particularly bad for a case of that sort. A hearty vote of thanks for Lady Gort for so kindly lending her house was proposed by Sir Launcelot Aubrey-Fletcher, and seconded by Captain St. John, and carried with acclamation; after which, dainty refreshments were hospitably served. B. K.

## POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held in the Board Room of Kensington Infirmary (by kind invitation of Miss Alsop) on April 28th at 3 p.m.

Miss Barton presided, and there was a large attendance. It was resolved to alter the rules of the Association so as to allow for its expansion in the future. It was also decided to invite all members, who had, for different reasons, to resign, to become Hon. Members of the Association.

The new Associates—the Superintendent Nurses of the smaller Infirmaries—had been invited to be present, but owing to the difficulties of travelling, not many of these were able to attend; their letters, received from different parts of the country, one and all expressed the hope of coming on future occasions. A very hearty welcome was extended to them by all the members present.

An interesting discussion took place as to how the Association could best benefit these new Associates.

Miss Bodley, Matron of Selly Oak Infirmary, Birmingham, read a suggestive paper as to ways in which the Association could help Poor Law Nurses generally.

Miss Stansfeld (Chief Lady Inspector at the Local Government Board), Miss Amy Hughes, and Miss Wilde, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, Kensington Board of Guardians, were amongst the guests invited to tea, and a hearty vote of thanks to the Kensington Guardians for kindly lending their Board Room for the meeting was responded to by Miss Wilde.

## WEDDING BELLS.

GRAY—COOPER.—On April 26th, at St. John's, Red Lion Square (very quietly), Archibald Montague Henry Gray, M.D., Major, R.A.M.C., T.F., only son of the late F. A. Gray, of Ottery St. Mary, Devon, to Elsie, youngest daughter of the late F. B. Cooper, of Newcastle, Staffs.

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