

member of the medical staff must be the holder in his own right of shares to the nominal value of £200.

This hospital for paying patients was opened in 1914, and with the exception of the first year when only 4 per cent. was paid, the preference shares have received 6 per cent. interest, and for the past two years a dividend of 6 per cent. free of tax has been paid on the ordinary shares.

The points of special interest are that the patients who pay a "composition" fee, know exactly what expense they will incur per week, for nursing home accommodation and all professional attendance. The fee which is not less than £5 5s., or more than £10 10s. per week is arranged between the patient, and the member of the medical staff concerned. Each member of the staff receives every month a statement showing the fees collected from his patients, and a cheque for the proportion due to him. "Composition" patients form 90 per cent. of the total admissions. Last year rather more than 900 patients were of the "composition" class. All these were unable to afford the cost of treatment in an ordinary nursing home, and would have been compelled to apply for admission into a charitable hospital, had St. Chad's not been available.

The remainder of the patients are ordinary "private" patients, who pay the usual fee to the physician or surgeon quite independently of the nursing home charges.

An example of an inclusive fee is that paid by a patient suffering from chronic appendicitis, the inclusive charge being £21. This covers the cost of the operation, the anaesthetic and three weeks' stay in hospital.

Mr. William Billington, M.S., F.R.C.S., who gives an interesting account of this hospital in the *British Medical Journal*, states that five years' practical experience of the working of the scheme, of which St. Chad's hospital is the outward and visible sign, has demonstrated that with proper organization, "paying" hospitals can be made a success, and satisfy the consultant, the practitioner and the patient.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

The leading feature at the exhibit of Burroughs Wellcome & Co., at the British Industries Fair, was "Wellcome" brand sodium salicylate, the special advantages of which include physiological purity, whiteness, flakes which do not cake on the scalepan or paper, freedom from dust, easy solubility, bright, clean, water-white solution which does not require filtering.

In view of the recent exposures as to the deficiency in weight of unbranded saccharin tablets, "Saxin" claims attention by reason of the fact that it carries Burroughs Wellcome & Co.'s guarantee as to purity, strength and sweetening power.

TRUE TALE WITH A MORAL.

Paisley "Buddie" to Canvasser: "Ah! weel. I dinna ken ane fra t'ither, but me feyther, me granfeyther, and me great granfeyther voted Leebral, and I'll be aboot doing the same!"

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE INDIAN DRUM."*

Near the northern end of Lake Michigan, where the bluff-bowed ore carriers and the big, lowly wheat-laden steel freighters from Lake Superior push out from the Straits of Mackinac, there is a copse of pine and hemlock back from the shingly beach. From this copse—dark, blue, primeval—there comes at times of storm a sound like the booming of an old Indian drum. This drum beat, so tradition, whenever the lake took a life, one beat for every life.

When, however, the new steel freighter *Miwaka* was lost on her maiden trip with twenty-five aboard, only twenty-four strokes of the drum were heard, and the friends of those on the ill-fated boat for years clung to the hope that the survivor in whom they firmly believed might turn out to be their own particular loved one.

It is round the sole survivor of the *Miwaka* that the thrilling romance is woven, and certainly as a vividly-written tragedy it would be hard to beat. At the outset of the book, Corvet, the wealthy ship-owner, disappeared suddenly and absolutely, leaving a will in favour of an unknown young man, who was to inherit immediately. The disappearance and the will combined, naturally caused consternation in the circle of Corvet's friends. Who was this young man? what his relationship to Corvet? Alan Conrad, of Blue Rapids, Kansas, himself had no more idea than anyone else.

Alan had been brought up by foster parents and payment for his upkeep had come in an irregular manner from time to time. One day suddenly a letter had arrived, telling him, rather than asking him, to start at once for Chicago.

Was Corvet his father? The mystery of Alan's life was going to be answered.

Arrived at his destination, the news came to him from the charming daughter of the Sherril's—Corvet's intimate friends—that the man who had made such strange disposition of his property had completely disappeared, and the mystery surrounding Alan was as impenetrable as ever.

Between them, the Sherrils and Alan naturally arrive at the erroneous conclusion that Alan is Corvet's illegitimate son, though this, of course, did not account for his disappearance or his strange will.

Alan, in his search among Corvet's papers, comes across a mysterious manuscript, from which he follows up many clues.

The facts of the case were these. Many years ago Corvet, a ship-owner, in a moment of temptation, sank, under circumstances which are graphically described, a rival ship-owner's new boat, with the owner on board, thus ridding himself of dangerous competition. The owner's child, little Alan, had been the sole survivor; too young he was to be a hostile witness; and Corvet, in his remorse,

* By William Mac Harg and Edwin Balmer. Stanley Paul & Co.

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