

The supreme moment of the afternoon came when the architect, Mr. H. Edmund Mathews, F.R.I.B.A., handed to Her Majesty the trowel bearing the hospital arms. Slowly the great stone was lowered on to its bed of mortar carefully spread by Her Majesty, in a cavity in the brick-work there were deposited the last Report of the Hospital, the last copy of the *League News* (the Journal of the League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses), and the Programme of the day's proceedings. The Queen declared the stone to be "well and truly laid," and the long-hoped-for event was successfully accomplished. The inscription on the stone is as follows:—

QUEEN MARY'S HOME FOR ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL NURSES. THIS STONE WAS LAID BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1921.

But the Prince of Wales was not content with his formal Address of Welcome, and in a most happy, impromptu speech, assured Her Majesty of the welcome not only of the Governors, but of the deep appreciation and gratitude of the staff and workers in the hospital. His Royal Highness assured the Queen it was "a proud day for Bart's."

Three ringing cheers, led by the Prince, were given for the Queen, and then Dr. Walter Griffith called for "three cheers for our President," which were given till the echoes rang.

Then the Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary, and conducted by the Prince, as President, and the hospital officials, gave supreme pleasure by visiting three of the wards—Lawrence, Matthew and Elizabeth being selected for this honour.

The wards always beautifully kept, and more, conveying an impression of comfort and homeliness, which are the foundation of good nursing, looked their best. It seemed to be daffodil day, and these lovely harbingers of spring nodded a welcome with the green walls for background, and set off by the deep golden brown of the floors, shining and polished, the handsome old mantelpieces, and the deep window ledges.

Her Majesty spoke to every patient in each ward, and took much interest in a case in Lawrence, where a woman had a contracted hand after an accident, and the splint used for rectifying this condition, devised by the house surgeon was a circular ring in shape, with each finger separately extended by means of rubber tubing covering the fingers and attached to the ring; held in position by a plaster splint on the forearm. In Matthew, to the joy of a man who woke up just as the Queen had passed his bed, Her Majesty went back to speak to him. In Elizabeth, the maternity ward, where the babies reign supreme, the walls are cream in colour, and the pink azaleas and white tulips and other spring flowers beautifully arranged were an ideal decoration. Stanley received a visit from the Prince of Wales entirely on his own, and was greatly set up thereby. It was indeed "a proud day for Bart's," long to be remembered. It concluded with a merry dance for the medical and nursing staffs in the Pavilion, for which the hospital jazz band provided the music.

ETHEL G. FENWICK.

NURSING AT THE ISLINGTON INFIRMARY.

Last week we published the principal items in the Report of Miss L. M. Wamsley, one of the Inspectors of the Ministry of Health, made to that Department after a visit to the Highgate Hill Infirmary of the Parish of St. Mary, Islington, and the reply of the Infirmary Visiting Committee thereto, also incorporated in a Report. In this issue we publish the discussion which took place at the meeting of the Guardians, in the Board Room at St. John's Road, Upper Holloway, after the Report had been presented, as we consider the whole question of great interest to the managers of Poor-Law Infirmaries and their nursing staffs, and to the sick poor admitted to them.

DISCUSSION ON MISS WAMSLEY'S REPORT.

The adoption of the Report was moved by the Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, Mr. W. Finnimore, and the discussion which followed was amazing. Incidentally one asked oneself was it possible that this was a responsible public body, considering a Report sent down to it by a Government Department? When considering the previous item on the Agenda, members were hurling such epithets at one another as "hypocrite," and appealing to a hotly partisan chairman for the right of the floor, and protection against such accusations. Shouting was a pastime in which even the chairman of the Board (Mr. W. B. Parker) indulged, and when a Guardian exclaimed, "I can shout as loud as you, and I won't be shouted down," the chairman was understood to reply with some slighting reference to a past occupation of the Guardian calculated to develop the voice, who retorted that he was not ashamed of it.

Mr. Thomas was in favour of incorporating in the Committee's Report a paragraph which it had discussed, but not ultimately included, to ask the Ministry of Health not to send Miss Wamsley again to the institution, as in that event she would not be received. He moved an amendment to this effect.

Another member wished to know who gave Miss Wamsley the information that the nurses were "tired and jaded." The chairman of the Infirmary Committee stated that the Matron said some remarks she had made in the course of conversation might have been misconstrued.

Mr. Griffiths said the Report presented was of a sort for which they were quite prepared; he might almost have written it himself. The nurses were indignant at certain statements in the Inspector's Report, but was that proof that there was no neglect? They were insistent on wanting to know who gave the Inspector the information, but that was no concern of the Guardians. She had a perfect right to acquire information where she thought fit.

One point struck him in regard to the Report. What steps were taken to verify, or otherwise,

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