

to which no note is made in the pleadings or judgment is as to the value of the furniture and fittings of the offices of the Society, and of the values of the business of the Society as a going concern. Clearly the members, under the above judgment, would be entitled to the latter proceeds.

### CONTRIBUTIONS MEAN REPRESENTATION.

The Voluntary Hospitals Committee, presided over by Lord Cave, which Dr. Addison appointed recently "to consider the present financial position of voluntary hospitals and to make recommendations as to any action which should be taken to assist them," has submitted an interim report.

The Committee point out that the quinquennial valuation of Approved Societies under the National Health Insurance Acts, which is now in hand, shows a considerable surplus over the amounts required.

It is estimated that when the valuation is completed the total disposable surplus of all Approved Societies will not be less than £7,000,000.

The societies are empowered to submit for approval schemes for utilising the disposable surplus in providing additional benefits. "We are strongly of opinion," adds the Committee, "that the schemes to be approved should provide for the application of a substantial part of the disposable surplus in providing a contribution towards the cost of the maintenance of members in hospital."

It is suggested that the contribution from an approved society might take the form of either a weekly payment towards the cost of the maintenance of any member of the society who might become an in-patient, or a quarterly or yearly subscription. This latter course would require an amendment of the regulations.

It is therefore recommended that the Ministry of Health:—

(1) Should make any necessary amendment in the regulation;

(2) Should forthwith bring this matter to the notice of the societies concerned and advise them as to the amount of the contributions which might reasonably be made out of the available surplus; and

(3) Should not approve any scheme for the disposal of a surplus until the suggestion has received due consideration.

Not one word is said about the right of the Approved Societies to decide whether or no they wish to resign authority over the money they have saved by economic administration. We must remind the hospitals that if they accept the payment of lump sums from insurance societies they will undoubtedly be faced sooner or later with the demand for some sort of public control. We are of opinion that Approved Societies should pay for hospital treatment for each individual patient who is a member. Any other system would be unfair.

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Duke of York has become a patron of the London Homœopathic Hospital.

The report of King's College Hospital states that 80 of the 232 students are women.

By the will of Col. Francis Ryder, late 3rd Dragoon Guards, who left £46,617, about £25,000 falls to be divided between the following hospitals: The London, Guy's, Bart.'s, St. Thomas's, Charing Cross, and Leeds Infirmary.

A sub-committee of the British Medical Association has been formed to enquire into the experiment started in Brighton by Dr. Gordon Dill for a medical and hospital service for all residents who pay the modest sum of £1 per year per single person and £2 per year for a family. Dr. Dill has been in communication with officials of London hospitals on the subject, and if adopted in the metropolis would concern 120 hospitals and five millions of people.

A deficit of £4,364 was reported at the annual meeting of the Leeds Hospital for Women and Children, held in the Lord Mayor's Rooms, and an appeal was made for additional funds. How all-important is nursing in hospital service, the following paragraph in the report proves: "The work of the hospital had been carried on during the year with considerable difficulty. Last year a scheme for the improvement of the conditions of service of the nursing staff was approved, but the difficulty of obtaining suitable probationers was still great, and credit was due to those nurses who had carried on under conditions of exceptional pressure. Owing to the shortage of nurses it became necessary to close one-half of the wards for nearly three months. Later in the year, matters improved, and the wards were gradually reopened with the exception of a suite of small wards accommodating five patients." In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Lord Mayor remarked that he recently visited the hospital, and he could not praise too highly the efficiency in every department.

Dr. Willoughby, the town medical officer for Eastbourne, discussing health problems with a local society, said tuberculosis was undoubtedly spread by kissing, the osculatory act being "concentrating." If a tuberculous person was kissing a non-tuberculous person, the breathing alone would carry the infection. Experiments showed that when an affected subject coughed without covering the mouth with his hand, whole colonies of bacilli settled on a sensitive plate ten feet away. It is high time emotional persons were prevented from kissing babies—even if it loses votes at election time!

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