

£2,000 by Hospital Sunday collections. The President for the current year is Sir John Robinson.

Old and young Londoners will grieve to know that the London Hospital has closed 200 beds in Crossman, Yarrow, Rachel, Gurney, Currie, Hanbury and Richmond, owing to the present excessive cost of upkeep. We can imagine the sadness of Sisters and Nurses stripping and tabulating the contents of their wards, and making the inventory, and we sympathise with Lord Knutsford in that the work at the London—as at other big London Hospitals—has had to be curtailed. The whole question of voluntary hospital upkeep is a burning one, and can only be continued if each individual of the community will consider it a duty to subscribe for the care of the sick who have not the means to pay the whole cost of hospital treatment. We have only to look around and note the extravagance of the people—to mention only two items, the flappers' silk stockings, and the huge consumption of sweets—to realise that with a little self denial not a ward need be closed. Who is going to awaken the conscience of the present selfish generation? We need another Peter the Hermit, indeed!

It is not generally known, says the *Church Times*, how much leprosy has spread in England, and particularly in London since the Armistice. A small home for English lepers has been established in Essex, and is under the charge of the Society of the Divine Compassion, though the practical founder of the home is a distinguished physician. The outbreak of disease is a common sequel to war, but in this matter we think the authorities will do well to consider whether the spread of leprosy may not be due, to some extent at least, to the large influx of Japanese into London during the last two or three years. One of the biggest firms of importers of Japanese silks has for some time taken elaborate precautions to sterilise its Japanese goods before submitting them for sale.

REGISTERED UNIFORM URGENT.

The uniform of the hospital nurse is utilised, we know, to cover a multitude of sins, but a new use has recently been found for it in Liverpool. A police constable noticed three men and a person in hospital nurse's uniform get out of a motor car about 2 a.m. The "nurse" was carrying a heavy portmanteau, and judging from her gait he suspected that she was a man. Half an hour later, on coming on members of the party outside a house he challenged them, and was fired upon by four men with revolvers. Happily he was not hit, but was knocked about and left in a fainting condition. It appears that the house was occupied by a relative of a member of the R.I.C. who had been threatened, and it is assumed, a contemporary reports, that the "nurse" carried inflammable material in her portmanteau which, but for the timely arrival of the policeman would have been employed in setting fire to the house.

DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT SURPLUS MEDICAL STORES.

On May 30th, by the courtesy of Sir Howard Frank, Bart., K.C.B., Commissioner of the Disposal Board, an invitation was given to representatives of the Press to attend a preliminary private inspection of the Government Surplus Medical Stores. The representative of this Journal, following instructions, joined the party in St. James' Square, whence two large motor charabancs took them to the Central Medical Depot, Wood Lane, Shepherds Bush. There, under a huge corrugated iron shed, the surplus stores of the Army, Navy and Air Services, are carefully housed, having been collected from the various sub-depots all over the country. The Disposal Board has made arrangements whereby all surplus medical stores will be disposed of through the agency of the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. These stores have been carefully examined, and graded into two categories:—The absolutely new, and the used or part-worn. All obsolete medical stores have been excluded. The total value of the stores collected is approximately one million sterling. All articles are to be greatly reduced. The Depot will be opened for the goods to be inspected on June 14th, and will continue open each week day, except Saturdays, until further notice. The Depot is available in the first instance for hospital and nursing authorities who will thus have the first opportunity of satisfying their requirements. No one will be admitted to the Depot without an official permit. Such permits will be issued by the Joint Council of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society, 19, Berkeley Street, W. In order that every hospital shall have an equal opportunity of viewing the stores, it is proposed that permits shall be issued to 100 hospitals each day (every hospital to be represented by two persons), but that no sales shall take place until all desiring to inspect, have done so. The following figures will indicate the extent of the sale:—Over half a million surgical instruments. A large volume and wide range of variety of dental appliances, X-Ray apparatus, laboratory apparatus of all kinds. Also a number of microscopes, operating room furniture, operating tables, instruments' cabinets, new air and water beds and pillows. Approximately 50 tons of drugs of every variety in general use in hospitals; 130 million tablets are available, of 120 varieties, including 5 million of the famous "No. 9."

There will also be on view hospital ward and kitchen furniture, hospital clothing, &c. After a very interesting inspection conducted by Captain Ritchie, Sales Manager for the British Red Cross, the party were most hospitably entertained to lunch at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, S.W., by the Disposal Board. Those present included Sir Howard Frank, Bart., K.C.B. (Chairman), Commissioner of Disposal Board, the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., Chair-

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