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## EDITORIAL.

### A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

The Matron and Nursing Staff of St. Thomas's Hospital are to be congratulated both on the nature of the surprise which they had in store for H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught when he visited the hospital on Wednesday, June 21st, and on the method of its presentment. Incidentally the St. Thomas's nurses are also to be congratulated on a well-kept secret, no hint of which, we understand, reached the Treasurer of the hospital until the previous day—when it was communicated to him by the Matron—in spite of every nurse in the hospital being “in the know.”

The occasion was a very special one. First it was the jubilee of the hospital on its present site, for the new building was opened by Queen Victoria on June 21, 1871. Next, the Duke of Connaught had consented to present the prizes to the students of the medical school, to open the new physiology laboratory, and to attend the annual garden party given by the Nightingale Training School to “old Nightingales.”

Thirdly a Jubilee Appeal for £100,000 is being made to clear the hospital of debt, for after having had, until recent years, a sufficient income from invested funds to defray its expenses without appealing to the public, the Council is now compelled to ask for public support to help it in its difficulties; for while investments remain stationary, expenses have largely increased, owing to the great rise in the cost of provisions and hospital supplies.

The affection and loyalty of nurses to their Alma Mater is well known. The League of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Nurses raised some thousands of pounds for its new Nurses' Home, the nurses of the London Hospital, as we report in another column, are working hard to

ensure the success of a bazaar, of which they have undertaken the entire organisation to raise money for its support.

A few short weeks ago the Matron and Nursing Staff of St. Thomas's Hospital took counsel together as to how they could help the hospital in its present need; they were not used to begging, and felt a little awkward as to embarking on the enterprise. A bazaar was negatived as involving more time than they could afford from their already strenuous work, and then the Matron suggested that each member of the Nursing Staff should determine to raise at least £2 before June 21st, the amount raised to be presented to the Duke of Connaught, as President of the Hospital, in testimony of their desire to take their share in helping the institution in this time of financial difficulty. The idea was taken up with alacrity, the nurses set to work, with the result that the splendid total of over £2,000 was raised in about six weeks.

A most interesting episode in the proceedings on Tuesday afternoon was the presentation to the Duke of Connaught by the Matron, Miss Lloyd Still, on behalf of the Nursing Staff, of two Bank of England notes of £1,000 each, enclosed in a parchment on which was the following inscription, illuminated in black and red and gold letters, by a member of the Nursing Staff:—

“NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL.

“ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

“In love of our Hospital, and with sympathy for our President, Treasurer, and Almoners, in their time of anxiety for its welfare, do we—the Matron, Sisters, Nurses and Probationers in the year Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, make this offering.”

When the offering is complete (for there is more to follow) the names of all those concerned in it will be inscribed on the parchment,

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