

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON SUGGESTS CONTROLLING THE VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS.

The General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London have passed resolutions outlining the policy to be recommended for the preservation of the voluntary system of hospital management and control.

It is laid down that any method of increasing income should be such as not to stop voluntary contributions or do away with voluntary management.

Among the methods of supplementing voluntary income suggested are:—

Contributions from patients in consideration of treatment received;

Regular contributions from prospective patients as a kind of quasi-insurance or partial patients' payment in advance;

Payment by Government or other public authorities in respect of the treatment of any classes of patients for whom those authorities have taken responsibility.

By strengthening financial control and by co-operation between hospitals further economies may be effected.

The necessity for a central organisation would be met, the Council thinks, by King Edward's Hospital Fund itself, with provision for co-operation in matters of general policy with a separate central administrative body for extra Metropolitan hospitals.

CENTRAL POOR LAW CONFERENCE.

Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, is to attend the Central Poor Law Conference, which is to be held in London on February 15th and 16th, and no doubt the questions of the utilisation of vacant beds in Poor Law Infirmaries, for the overflow of patients from voluntary hospitals, and the admittance of paying patients in Poor Law Infirmaries should receive consideration at the Conference.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

A representative gathering of members of the board of management, the medical staff, and the governors and subscribers of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, have made a parting gift to Mr. Thomas Ryan on his retirement from the Secretaryship of the hospital after a tenure of office of more than thirty-three years.

The presentation, in the form of a cheque, was made by the chairman, Mr. Arthur R. Prideaux, who spoke in warm terms of Mr. Ryan's distinguished services to the hospital.

Mr. Herbert F. Rutherford, Secretary of the Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, has been appointed

Secretary of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, N.E., in succession to Mr. Guy B. Dale, who died last month as the result of a motor cycle accident. Mr. Rutherford succeeded Mr. Dale at Barnsley last March.

The Voluntary Hospitals Inquiry is being held at the Ministry of Health in private. Organisations which wish to give evidence should communicate with Mr. L. G. Brock, Secretary of the Committee.

There have been several discussions at inquests of late concerning the almost immediate deaths of patients removed from voluntary hospitals to Poor Law Infirmaries. For the sake of humanity this ought not to be. There should be a provision of observation wards in connection with the out-patient department of hospitals, and no patient if seriously ill should be moved because he is likely to be a long case, or is an uninteresting one.

The National Relief Fund has had allocated to it the sum of £700,000 from the Prince of Wales' Fund for the purpose of assisting voluntary hospitals with their war debts. Numbers of hospitals are receiving grants of many thousands of pounds, which must be a great relief to hard worked secretaries and anxious committees.

SURGEON: Now how would you tell that a man was a bleeder?

STUDENT (*promptly*): I'd puncture him.

SURGEON: Really! Where?

STUDENT (*fortissimo*): THROUGH THE SKIN!—
(From *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*.)

TO THE "PERFECT V.A.D." FROM THE "OTHERS."

My dear good woman, for Heaven's sake
Go on duty, and make a mistake.
Couldn't you lose the O-Cedar mop,
Or hear "Sister" call, and refuse to stop?
Or carelessly over-dilute the sauce,
Or polish the glasses with undue force?
Or slide on some Ronuk, and drop the jugs,
Or forget at dinner to fill the mugs?
Dear Lady, your path is perfectly plain—
Make a mistake, and relieve the strain.
Sweep cigarette ends under the mat,
Whistle on duty, and say it's the cat.
Use the telephone far too long,
Teach the soldiers a shocking song,
Sit on the edge of a patient's bed,
Bandage a limb for an injured head,
Anything—anything—do what you like,
But don't be perfect, or we shall strike.

MARJORIE D. TURNER, London/60.
—From *The Red Cross*.

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