

### THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Princess Christian has issued a personal appeal for funds to enable up-to-date X-ray apparatus to be installed at The Hospital for Women, Soho Square.

The closing of beds at our splendid hospitals with medical schools attached will naturally curtail facilities for medical education—a real national disaster; and we sympathise with the letter signed by Sir Gilbert Barling (Principal), and other dignitaries of the University of Birmingham, addressed to the Chairman of the General Hospital, Birmingham, where fifty beds have been closed owing to the lack of financial support by the public of Birmingham and the surrounding district.

The Faculty of Medicine points out that the closure of beds is most unfortunate owing to the large entry of students since the war, and hopes the public will realise the seriousness of depriving teacher and student of a proper amount of clinical material under the scheme recently drawn up, so that each student may have proper instruction under the supervision of his Chief, and will, by prompt and liberal support, enable the Board of Management to re-open the wards at an early date.

The Chairman of the Hospital Board replied that special efforts have for some time past been made to increase the income of the hospital, and, although these are meeting with a certain measure of success, there is still so large a difference between income and expenditure that the Board are quite unable to say when they are likely to be able to reconsider their decision.

We repeat that individual insurance is the only just method of providing adequate hospital medical and nursing treatment in sickness—and it would seem that the Managers of several London Hospitals are to put an insurance scheme as follows on trial.

It is understood that the new national provident scheme which has been adopted by the London Hospital, St. Thomas' Hospital, and the Royal Free Hospital will come into operation in London on November 1st.

The essence of the scheme is that for an annual subscription of £1 persons whose income does not exceed £250 per annum can have the finest hospital skill placed at their disposal without further charge and without the stigma of charity. For married couples or for a widow or widower with one child, where the income is £400, the subscription is £1 10s. per annum; and where the income is £500 the subscription is £2.

The full resources of these institutions will be placed at the disposal of all subscribers. These services include the following valuable facilities: Consultations, Dental Service, Massage, Hospital admission, Ambulances, Nursing, X Rays, Electrical treatment, and Radium service.

The medical attendant of a member may arrange, by appointment, for individual consultations at any of the co-operating hospitals, and such treatment as he and the consultant may jointly think advisable will be undertaken—at the hospital if necessary.

It remains to be seen how the medical profession as a whole will fall in with these arrangements!

In order to celebrate their silver wedding, Mr. T. Dootson, a well-known Leigh solicitor, and his wife, have sent £1,000 to the Leigh Infirmary.

The trustees of the late Mr. William Kirkhope, of Edinburgh, have distributed £40,000 of the residue of his estate among Edinburgh charities.

The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, gets £5,600; Convalescent House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh, £800; Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Incurables, £4,000; Royal Society for Home Relief to Incurables, Edinburgh, £4,000; Dunlop Cancer Fund, Edinburgh, £4,000; Society for Relief of Destitute Sick, Edinburgh, £4,400; Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children, £2,800; Royal Victoria Hospital, Edinburgh, £2,000; and Gilmerton Convalescent Homes, Midlothian, Edinburgh, £3,600.

The Trustees have expressed the hope that the claims of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors, their wives, widows, and children, and dependents will always receive favourable consideration when making application to any of the above institutions for assistance.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

It is anticipated that the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Council of Women, to be held in the Cutlers' Hall at Sheffield, from September 26th to 30th, will be widely attended. The Lady Mayoress, Mrs. W. L. Wardley, will act as President.

The Representative Council Meetings are summoned for 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27th, and on the 28th and 29th instant at 10 a.m.

The Conference will deal with numerous questions of public interest, such as "Women in Professions and Industry." (We wonder what Professor Winifred Cullis, D.Sc., will say of Nursing now that it is numbered amongst the learned Professions). Miss Eleanor Rathbone will have something wise to tell us of "Women in Industry."

"The Economic Situation—National and International," to be held in the Victoria Hall, over which Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., is to preside, should draw a packed audience.

Of social functions there will be many, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield will hold a Reception in the Town Hall at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27th.

Sheffield has many important hospitals; the

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