

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

We fear the managers of voluntary hospitals will not have a very satisfying time when they come to consider their financial condition this Christmas. All are more or less heavily in debt, and with appalling rates and taxes to be met, little is now left for charity. Mr. Morris, of the London, writes of the tragedy of it, and of the suffering entailed by the closing down of 200 beds in that poor district. The chairman of St. Mary's, Paddington, writes that if every householder in Paddington who occupies a house rated at £100 or more would subscribe a guinea a year, their financial difficulties would be at an end.

When Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll opened Pound Day in aid of the Great Northern Hospital, Mr. H. J. Tennant, the Chairman, announced that the King had issued his command that the name of the hospital should be altered to "Royal Northern Hospital." They spend £85,000 a year. Out of the half-million which it had at its disposal, the Hospitals Commission had recently granted them £11,000, but the condition was attached that they must secure donations and subscriptions aggregating a similar amount.

Princess Louise said that she knew that the King took the very deepest interest in the hospital. She was delighted to hear that such a substantial sum had been granted to them by the Hospitals Commission.

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, will preside at the annual meeting of presidents of the League of Mercy at St. James's Palace on Monday, December 19th, at 3.30. It co-operates with the King's Fund in support of the hospitals.

The nurses of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, are endeavouring to raise enough to endow a cot, and out of the £1,000 they are aiming at they have already raised £500. We wish them success.

THE VICTOR HORSLEY MEMORIAL FUND.

It has been decided that the "Victor Horsley Memorial" Fund shall be invested in the names of a Board of Trustees consisting of the President of the Royal Society, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the President of the British Medical Association, the Senior Physician of the National Hospital, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, the Senior Surgeon of University College Hospital (in virtue of the office), Mr. Edward Robinson (son-in-law of the late Sir Victor Horsley), and Mr. E. J. Domville, O.B.E. (one of the Hon. Secretaries). The trustees are triennially to appoint a lecturer to deliver a lecture

in London under the title of the "Victor Horsley Memorial Lecture." No limitation will be placed on the Trustees as to the country or profession from which the lecturer shall be appointed, nor as to the subject of the lecture to be delivered.

The Fund, when the list is closed at the end of the year, will allow about £1,000 to be invested.

AS SEEN BY A PATIENT.

The following account of a hospital, by a 32-months' patient, appears in the October number of the *King's College Hospital Gazette* :—

"A hospital is a collection of corridors and stairs supported by slippery floors and contributions. A ward is a room attached to a corridor. It contains nurses, beds, patients, and fresh air in large quantities. A bed has longitude but no latitude. Its real duty is to beautify the ward. To disarrange a bed is a criminal offence. It is a far, far better thing to have a tidy bed than to be comfortable. A patient is the victim of circumstances—a conspiracy between the doctors and hospital authorities. After he has bided awhile he realises why he is called a patient. A nurse is essential for the proper running of the ward. Her chief duty is to watch patients in order to wake them when asleep. . . . A clinical thermometer is a morbid cold-blooded instrument which requires a hot-air bath twice daily. The radiant heat necessary is provided by the patient. A chart is a piece of paper clipped to a board hanging on your bed. It is provided so that specialists can play noughts and crosses with the students. Has often been mistaken for an underground railway map, but is really the life story of a thermometer set to music. . . . The medicine cupboard contains brandy and castor oil. Tremendous quantities of each are used. The brandy is used to camouflage the castor oil and is also used as a restorative when patients feel faint. No patient is ever allowed to feel faint! Screens are used by the nurses instead of Sandow's Developer and are considered part of their uniform when on duty. No nurse is allowed to take a screen with her out of the ward when off duty. Most screens do not screen. Night commences when blinds are pulled down—day commences when the night nurses have finished their midnight meal. Old patients sleep in the daytime—it is quieter. Lockers are a hospital version of dining-room sideboards. Always placed so that a patient cannot get at them, and really provided to gratify the nurses' curiosity. Lockers do not lock!"

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"May we hope that when we are dead and gone, leaders will arise who have personally experienced in the hard, practical work the difficulties and the joys of organizing nursing reforms, and who will lead far beyond anything we have done."—*Florence Nightingale.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)