

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The committee of management of King's College Hospital are arranging that any regular subscriber of not less than one guinea, upon the admission of himself, his wife, or child under sixteen as a paying patient in a private ward, will be entitled to ask that any subscription paid since January 1st, 1920, may be credited against his account with the hospital.

The Great Northern Hospital would be glad to receive gifts of cast-off clothing, boots, &c. Special needs include two men's suits, full size (one suit being required to enable a man to obtain employment), garments for children, and boots. Parcels should be sent to the Secretary, Great Northern Hospital, Holloway, N. 7.

Surrey branch of the British Red Cross Society have given £10,000 to the Royal Surrey County Hospital at Guildford for a much-needed extension of the nurses' quarters.

There was a time when the financial position of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital seemed desperate, and the fact that one ward had to be closed indicates that the Board of Management felt that there was no other way to reduce the increasing liabilities of the Hospital save to curtail its utility. Fortunately, the sympathies of city and county were genuinely roused, and the response during the past six months has enabled the Board to pay their way, and to re-open the ward which had been closed. Six thousand pounds have been received from entertainments.

On his recovery from an operation in a Leeds nursing home, Mr. J. H. Hinchcliffe, a dress goods manufacturer of Bradford, has made handsome donations to several Yorkshire charities.

The gifts were made anonymously, "with gratitude," but the name of the generous donor has now transpired. The donations consist of:—

- £5,000 Leeds General Infirmary.
- £5,000 Bradford Royal Infirmary.
- £1,000 Sir B. Moynihan's Research Fund.

The Paris Municipal Council has voted a credit of £50,000 for the purchase of 30 grains of radium for the hospitals.

THE EXPERIENCES OF AN ASYLUM DOCTOR.

"The Experiences of an Asylum Doctor," by Dr. Montagu Lomax, M.R.C.S., published by Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., is being widely discussed, and has shocked both professional and lay readers, and naturally caused great anxiety amongst persons who have relatives incarcerated in asylums. We hope to refer to the book again, but, fundamentally, the public must insist on the abolition of private asylums run for gain, and on a greater expenditure on the scientific side of the care of the insane, i.e., on medical investigation and treatment, including highly skilled nursing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

PROBATIONERS' SALARIES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I was very glad to read the remarks of Mr. John Frater, Chairman of the Tynemouth Guardians, on the subject of probationers' salaries at the Conference of Representatives of Boards of Guardians, held in London, on July 7th, and hope that some good may result and that committees of voluntary hospitals will confer with poor-law guardians and decide upon a joint line of action as to the adoption of a suitable scale of salaries to be offered to probationers in training.

The Mental Hospitals might also come into line. I noticed recently an advertisement for probationers at a mental hospital near London which offered the following terms to probationers: *Commencing salary, £150 16s. per annum, rising on promotion to £180 14s.; free uniform; leave, two days a week and fourteen days every six months; a charge of 28s. a week was made for Board, Lodging and Washing, when taken in the institution.* The cost of such unskilled probationers to the ratepayers, if attendance and the cost of tuition are taken into account, must be at least £180 to £230 per annum. Further, they are to be on duty only 233 days in the year. No wonder that the burden of the rates is a crushing one, and that many ratepayers cannot themselves afford to take a holiday.

Added to this, Mr. Frater points out that the high scale of salaries at present offered is not attracting the right class of probationers. It should be recognized that probationers in the future will receive a valuable and standardized training qualifying them to enter a State Registered Profession; and that if they receive board, lodging, washing, uniform and a small salary, they are receiving a very good equivalent for any services they may render in the wards in addition to strictly nursing duties.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,
SUPERINTENDENT.

NURSES' REGISTERED UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Many congratulations on the welcome news in to-day's B.J.N. I am writing for Rules and Form by this post. May you and the G.N.C. enjoy a well-earned rest. I hope Uniform, the emblem of nursing and nurses will be registered and not any newly-designed substitute which will not be known to the general public. I have worn cape cloak, veil-less bonnet and white strings, and the much abused collar for many years.

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