

HOSPITAL WORLD.

At the County Hall a cheque for fifty thousand guineas was handed to the Prince of Wales from London school children, in whose name it was tendered for the hospitals.

"A truly magnificent sum," said his Royal Highness. The sixteen hundred children cheered him to the echo as he passed through an avenue of happy boys and girls, as fine specimens of humanity as can be grouped in any city in the world. Bright open faces, rosy cheeks, straight backs, lovely curls. The Prince was all smiles, and the children as happy as crickets. The hospitals should be proud of this recognition of their good work.

The London Hospital needs £200,000 to fulfil its obligations to the sick, and its Quinquennial Appeal has again been issued by Lord Knutsford, which concludes with the following question: "The London Hospital is a wonderful heritage. It has been spreading knowledge, and sending its doctors and nurses all over the world. Is it not, from its size and work, a National Trust?"

The Board of Management of the Royal Northern Hospital are opening a neurological section of the Out-Patient Department, on April 20th, and the session will be held thereafter every Friday, at 1 p.m. The new department is being inaugurated in order to cope with the large number of nerve cases applying for treatment. The appointment of an additional Out-Patient officer is also being made, so that the period of detention of patients awaiting treatment may be reduced to a minimum. Forty-two separate sessions are held in the Out-Patient Department every week, calling for eighty-one individual attendances by members of the medical staff attached to the Hospital, and the attendances of Out-Patients exceed 180,000 per annum.

The London University building, for anatomy, histology, and embryology, provided by the Rockefeller gift for medical education, will be opened in the summer and ready for occupation in October.

COMING EVENTS.

March 22nd.—Nurses' Missionary League. A Quiet Day. Chapel of the Ascension, Bayswater Road, W. 10.30 a.m., 3.15 p.m., 6 p.m.

March 23rd.—Registered Nurses' Parliamentary Council. Meeting of Executive Committee. 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 5 p.m.

March 24th.—Annual Meeting Scottish Nurses' Club. The Most Hon. the Marchioness of Ailsa in the chair. Club House, 203, Bath Street, Glasgow. 3 p.m.

March 24th.—Royal British Nurses' Association Club. Concert. Mr. Zacharewitsche (the world-famous violinist), Miss Kathleen Dawn, and Mr. Harold Horton. Tickets from the Secretary.

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.

THE TRUE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Why are not nurses in training taught modern knowledge regarding the true effects of alcohol on the human body?

Though one often meets nurses who hold an apparently fanatical objection to the use of alcohol, I have never known one able to give convincing scientific reasons against its use.

If we are to believe the statement of Sir Victor Horsley and Dr. Mary Sturge in their book, "Alcohol and the Human Body"—and there is every reason why we should do so—even a single dose of alcohol has an injurious, instead of a restorative action; and the habitual use of small "dietetic" doses accounts for, or aggravates, most of the serious diseases to which the human body is subject.

All their statements having been proved up to the hilt since the first edition in 1907, it is urgently necessary that every nurse should be acquainted with them in order not only to enlighten patients on the subject, but also that they may themselves act an example of total abstinence from what we now know to be a dangerous narcotic poison, instead of one of "the good things of life."

Too often trained nurses tacitly assent in the forming of the drink habit by patients who may be potential alcoholics; and they impair their own efficiency by taking alcohol in the erroneous belief that it is a food and a stimulant.

I am, Dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

M. M. G. BIELBY.

Cranford,
Middlesex.

SMOKING A DRUG HABIT.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to note that you point out in your admirable journal that smoking is a "drug" habit. As a patient of long standing, and no doubt a very prejudiced old party where nurses are concerned, I divide my nurses into classes—excellent, fair, and indifferent. The former never smoke; the other classes often do.

Yours truly,

M. C. T.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

March 31st.—What are the causes of digestive disturbances among infants, and what steps would you take in such cases?

April 7th.—How would you prepare (a) the patient and (b) the room for an emergency operation for appendicitis in a private house? Describe the subsequent nursing.

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