

HOSPITAL WORLD.

King Edward's Hospital Fund have sent a memorandum to the Government and the Voluntary Hospitals' Commission suggesting that schemes of hospital building additions, and repairs, should be considered in the allocation of public funds available for the relief of unemployment.

Among the latest contributions to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London is the sum of £1,000, being the annual subscription of the King, Patron of the Fund.

The Hon. Secretaries of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London have received at the Bank of England from the League of Mercy its contribution for the year 1922 of £15,000. Sir William Collins is the moving spirit in the continued success of this League.

A motion to cease to give any further sums to hospitals is on the agenda of the sectional meetings of the members of the London Co-operative Society, Ltd., on January 25th.

The suggested cessation of monetary support is based on "the vital necessity of having an adequately financed and efficient hospital service, which should and can only be assured by being State maintained," and "seeing that support of the voluntary system perpetuates the precarious existence of a service of prime national importance in a condition insufficient to deal with humanitarian demands."

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London paid a visit to the Freemasons' Hospital, Fulham Road, last week. It is being worked on a self-supporting basis of a nursing home for paying patients of limited means. Such institutions are greatly needed for middle-class patients, to whom sickness comes with the added anxiety of restricted means.

We are thankful to learn from a statement made by Major Tryon, Minister of Pensions, at a meeting of the Standing Joint Committee for Ex-Service Men, that consideration is being given to various suggested methods of carrying out the desire of the Government that in suitable cases Service patients, including the provision made for insane ex-Service Men, should be treated apart from other patients. He also informed the meeting that a decision had been come to, and an announcement would immediately be made, regarding claims to widows' pensions which had been barred by the operation of the seven years' limit in Article II of the Royal Warrant.

COMING EVENTS.

January 10th to 24th, 1923.—Issue of and return of Ballot Papers in the Election of the Registered Nurses' Representatives, General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

THOUGHTS ON THOUGHTS.

By H. M. P.

As a Sister—

"Do tell me your ideas on the subject of these new cures by suggestion."

It was a sentence from my friend's letter—she had been attending some of M. Coué's seances in Paris—and trying to reply to her question that gave me the incentive to put down some of the thoughts on paper which the subject aroused in one's mind.

"Cure by suggestion" can hardly be considered a *new* idea, but, as with the case of many other *old* ideas, both in the religious and scientific world, it is being presented to us in a new and more modern dress.

Every nurse knows, from personal observation, the *power* of suggestion, from the happy influence of the soldier patient who cheered the newest arrival from the front, distraught, dirty, and ill, with the words, "You'll soon be all right here, they (Sisters and orderlies) "are all doing their best to set us up again," to the reverse side of the picture when a nurse confided to her friend she could not work in a certain ward; "Sister always spoke as if she expected her to do the wrong thing, and make a mistake, and then I always seem to do it," she said.

Years ago a doctor told me a friend had been cured of stammering by suggestion.

One Matron abroad (referring to air raids) used to say, "Do not *think* about anything you do not want others to know about."

How can we estimate how much patients in a ward are helped towards health not merely by the fact that all the cleaning and scrubbing and sterilising is being undertaken to kill the microbes of disease, but that all *this* is being done to get them well.

The *source* of a suggestion will determine its *nature*—and *result*. Evil suggestions or thoughts emanating from an evil source will be of an evil nature and bring evil results, good suggestions in the same way bringing good results.

"Evil thoughts" begin a list of sins mentioned in the Old Book, most of which have disease in their trail.

The Church of England Prayer Book reminds us of the necessity of thoughts being "cleansed" by "the inspiration of the Holy Spirit."

Our bodies are looked after by doctors and nurses, our souls by clergymen (at least, they ought to be), but who cares for our *minds*—anyone or no one?

One of my friends thinks it is this failure to care for the mind that leads so often to its distortion. May we not ask if the modern restlessness is not also a result of this same failure?

The mind needs food as much as the body, otherwise it gets weak and in such a condition is liable to disease. It cannot be left, as fallow ground. If not cultivated with the good seed—"of whatsoever is pure, honest and good report"—evil seed will soon fall on it and bring forth its evil harvest.

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