

but it is also the evidence and declaration of their conviction that the progress of science and the welfare of mankind are not delimited by national or racial boundaries, and that work done here in London for the relief of human suffering, the improvement of medical education, and the advance of science is a service to the whole world.

THE UNIT SYSTEM.

It is not, however, only the magnitude of the endowment which lends importance to this occasion. These buildings are designed for new and far-reaching developments in the traditional organisation of British medical education.

I understand that this college and medical school were selected by the Rockefeller trustees for their benefaction from among many equally distinguished institutions, partly because the situation is central and yet affords room for expansion, and partly because the close connection of the hospital and medical school with the college provides favourable opportunities for that intercourse between medicine and other branches of learning which is the surest defence against the evils of a narrow specialism. But I also understand that the trustees were chiefly influenced by the establishment at this college of what has come to be known as the "unit system" of medical teaching, and that, being convinced of the value of this reform, they desired to supply the resources for carrying it out in an English university on a scale worthy of its importance both to education and research.

The essence of the unit system, as explained in the memorandum on medical education in England, recently published by the Ministry of Health, lies in effecting the closest possible correlation between the science and the art of medicine, between research and education, and between theory and practice; and as a means to this end in placing the chief branches of medical education each under the direction of a head, who is free to devote his whole time to teaching, research, and hospital practice. This is a substantial development of the traditional British system, which entrusts the clinical teaching of medicine to men of distinction who are actively engaged as private practitioners. No appreciation can be too great for the devotion with which eminent physicians and surgeons have given and are giving their services to the treatment of hospital patients and the training of students. But the advance of knowledge and ever-rising standard of medical education has necessitated reorganization, which will give impetus to the more effective training and equipment of the British practitioner, with corresponding benefits to the health, well-being, and happiness of the people. The underlying principle is as old as Ecclesiasticus: "The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure, and he that hath little business shall become wise." Its specific application to medical teaching and research is new, in this country at all events.

THE MATERNITY HOSPITAL AND OBSTETRIC UNIT.

There are two features in the scheme of which the Queen has learned with particular satisfaction. The first is the Maternity Hospital and the obstetric unit of which it forms a part. The Queen has always been actively interested in the care of maternity and infant life, and keenly conscious of its fundamental importance to the national health. It is unfortunately true that the present position is not wholly satisfactory, and that every year many lives are lost in childbirth and many women suffer injuries to health which might be prevented if better facilities for treatment were available. Two of the chief requisites for bringing

about a better state of things are to ensure that medical men are well and efficiently trained for their work and to provide maternity hospitals in which patients may be received.

THE NEW NURSES' HOME.

The Queen is also gratified that in allocating the endowment the claims of the nursing service have not been overlooked, provision having been made for the establishment of a new nurses' home. We fully recognise how vital to the cause of public health it is that the nation should possess a body of nurses adequate in number, efficiently trained for their work, and bent on maintaining the high standard of unselfish devotion which has been the glory of English nursing.

We are glad to find that the medical school realises the absolute necessity of giving the nurses, not only a thorough and scientific training in their craft, but also appropriate facilities for rest and recreation, without which continuous efficiency in their exacting duties is impossible.

The privilege of accepting this munificent gift of the Rockefeller Trustees imposes obligations upon the staff to fulfil the ideals which it represents and upon the public to furnish the necessary support entailed. It is inconceivable that Englishmen should decline to welcome this generous challenge from our kinsmen across the Atlantic to a friendly rivalry in medical skill, devotion, and beneficence. I cordially wish God-speed to this great enterprise.

Prayers were then offered by the Bishop of London that "the Lord our God would visit the Hospital with His loving kindness," for the College and for the medical and nursing staffs, after which the King, at the request of Dr. George F. Blacker, F.R.C.P., C.B.E., Dean of the Medical School, laid the Foundation Stone of the new Obstetric Hospital in a manner so expert and careful that he might have served an apprenticeship in the craft of stonemasonry, concluding by declaring the stone to be well and truly laid. An inscription records that "This Stone of the New Obstetric Hospital and Residents' Quarters, built by the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.A., was laid by His Majesty, King George V, May 31st, 1923."

The Queen then laid the Foundation Stone of the new Nurses' Home, receiving from Miss Darbyshire, who offered them to be placed within the stone, a copy of the authorised Programme of the Day, a copy of *The Times* of the day, specimens of the current coins of the day, and the current Edition of the Hospital Report, with list of the staff, &c. Her Majesty then handed these back to Miss Darbyshire, who placed them in the receptacle provided for them before they were placed in the stone.

The last ceremony was the opening of the new Anatomy Building of the College, which the King performed at the request of the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Pressing a button, the King said, "I have great pleasure in declaring the Anatomy Building open."

Their Majesties then went across to the new Anatomy Building in Gower Street, and spent some time in visiting the different departments, and here, also, Mr. Paul Wheeler, Councillor of the American Embassy, and Dr. G. E. Maclean,

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