

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The annual report for 1922 by Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health, was issued last week. It is worth close study by all those interested in the nation's health, and we hope to devote space to it we cannot spare this week.

Prince Henry will open the new Nurses' Home of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End on Saturday, October 13, at 3 p.m.

The Mansion House Fund for Japan is now away over £200,000, of which £150,000 has already been sent to Japan through the Japanese Ambassador and £30,000 to the Central Committee dealing with British sufferers. The Japan Relief Supply Committee, of which Sir Maurice de Bunsen is chairman, is appealing for gifts in kind. The articles most urgently needed are the following: Flannel and other material, down quilts, blankets, underclothing (small sizes preferred), knitted garments, disinfectants, drugs (particularly those for use in epidemics of cholera and typhus), and cotton wool, for lining winter clothing.

The warehouse of the Japan Relief Supply Committee, to which goods should be sent, is at 71, Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E., and the office of the Committee is 35, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, from which any gifts addressed to the Secretary will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged.

The late Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Ward, Hampton Wick, Middlesex, left the bulk of her property, amounting to £20,182, to the Middlesex Hospital for Cancer Research.

London Hospital governors were informed recently that £8,000 has been received to form a trust fund, to be known as the James Paterson Trust, to be used for carrying out researches into diseases of the heart and arteries, with special regard to heart disease following rheumatism.

The fund will pay for the services of a trained investigator as head of the department and defray the cost of expensive instruments.

In connection with the researches, electrical wires would be fixed in such a manner that the heart-beats of the patients would be recorded on a drum in the research department in another part of the building. This would make it unnecessary to disturb the patients.

The House Committee also acknowledged the gift of £3,000 to endow one of the hospital beds in memory of the late Viscount Northcliffe. It is to be known in perpetuity as the "Northcliffe Bed."

Cracking of Brazil nuts and orange-peeling were among the causes of dermatitis among factory workers, which were investigated last year by medical inspectors, according to the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

## THE IRISH NURSES' AND MIDWIVES' UNION.

### GOVERNMENT'S ACTION CRITICISED IN THE TREATMENT OF MIDWIVES.

The annual report of the Irish Nurses' and Midwives' Union, which was read at the opening meeting of the Council in the Mansion House, Dublin, on September 19th—Miss Louie Bennett, President, presiding—recorded a total membership of 795, an increase of 128 since October last.

The report stated that the Government had acted most dishonestly towards some district midwives, in places where new appointments at an increased salary had been actually sanctioned by the late Dail Local Government Department, when Mr. Cosgrave was Minister. A midwife in Dunshaughlin, appointed at £80 and sanctioned, was reduced to £40, plus £15 bonus, sanction being withdrawn. When a question was asked in the Dail about this the excuse given was that sanction was issued "in error." The nurse had to suffer for the Department's "error." The same thing occurred to a midwife in Edenderry appointed at £67. The salaries of the Rathdown midwives were reduced also, as sanction had not been obtained during the troubles and dislocation of Local Government in 1921. This has lately been done also in Celbridge Union, where a bonus of £35 was cut off at once, as sanction had not been obtained. The Rathdown Guardians subsequently decided to pay the increased salary, and the Meath County Health Board had recently told the Local Government Department that they could not procure a midwife for a vacant district at the sanctioned salary, so the Union hoped that the Local Government Department would be forced to raise their maximum soon and allow the local authorities to pay what they considered right.

### DAILY VISITING NURSES.

A scheme to provide daily visiting nurses for patients who did not require a whole-time nurse was thought out and launched by some members of the Union, principally Mrs. McCarthy and Miss Bonass, in the early part of the year. The idea was new to Dublin and Dublin doctors, but when it was better known it should be a great success.

The report was adopted.

The meeting had also under consideration business of a private nature.

### A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

During the afternoon the following resolution was proposed by Miss Smithson and seconded by Miss Guinnane: "That we are of opinion that a Ministry of Health should be immediately set up in the new Government, as it is plain that the progress of public health reform is at present being held up owing to the lack of a special department to deal with it; and we recommend that members of the medical and nursing professions should be appointed on the Health Ministry."

Dr. Rowlette, speaking on behalf of the motion, declared that there could not be prosperity in

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)