

employment, who were also members of the B.M.A. They were under the *Arbitration Act*, and still were members of the B.M.A.

Miss McKinnell moved that the matter be deferred until a legal opinion was obtained.

Seconded by Miss Cameron.

The amendment, on being put to the meeting, was lost.

The original motion was then carried.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

As we go to press on December 12th H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., is performing the ceremony of opening the recent extensions of the Hospital which bears his name—the Prince of Wales' General Hospital, Tottenham. The Hospital serves a poor and crowded neighbourhood, and has always maintained a high standard of nursing efficiency—which means general efficiency—for the heart of a hospital is its Nursing Service. The visit of the Prince will, we feel sure, be a great encouragement to the Committee, the Director, and the Matron and Nursing Staff, as well as an incentive to increased support.

It was stated at a meeting of the governors and subscribers to the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, that while expenditure was coming down, income was falling at a still greater rate. A debt of £11,000 was still owing to the bankers.

A wireless receiving set is to be installed at Pinewood Sanatorium, under the control of the Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Mr. T. Foster Knowles, of Hamp'on-on-Thames, has handed over St. Mary's Cottage Hospital, which he has erected at a cost of £15,000, to the parish.

A generous gift has been made to the Ellesmere Port Cottage Hospital. Mr. N. S. Burnell, of Essington Priors, Limpsfield, Surrey, has invested £1,000 in perpetuity with the local Council, and the income is to be used to endow a hospital bed, which will be named, after Mr. Burnell's wife, the "Grace Jane Burnell Bed."

Ex-Provost and Mrs. D. C. Boath, Bayview, Bervie, have gifted to Montrose Royal Infirmary, £750 for the purpose of endowing a bed in the institution to the memory of their son William. The donation is to be made in annual sums of £100, payable half-yearly.

The Sale of Work at the Imperial Nurses' Club, 137, Ebury Street, S.W., is being kept open permanently until Christmas.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

MOORDIUS & CO.

Moordius was a brilliant unprincipled scamp. Timothy, who was embraced in the "Co.," the delightful, honest, and transparent dupe of his chief. He, Timothy, had not for long been enmeshed in the toils of the fraudulent "Co.," and exactly how he become so comprises the pith of the story. The plot is Mr. Locke at his best. When we first come across Timothy he was the junior partner of the highly-reputable firm of Combermere, Chartered Accountants, where he was quite contented, until the return of Naomi, his little daughter, upon his hand, he being a widower in the thirties, and she till then having been fostered by his married sister.

The responsibility of Naomi and his increased household weighed heavily on his mind. An establishment after irresponsible rooms, now came people of whose very existence he had had but a vague suspicion holding out insatiable hands, plumbers, electricians, gas-men, chemists, juvenile warehousemen, sweeps, rate-collectors . . . There was also a terrifying cook-housekeeper, a housemaid, a self-effacing Megæsa (all pails and mops and grey-haired dishevelment), and the pink-cheeked Emma, who each in their several ways demanded post-war wages and Pantagruelian meals.

Just at this juncture it became his business to go down to settle the affairs of a wealthy old gentleman—Joseph Gabbetee—a wicked old man with a pretty niece of much personality.

Joseph took a fancy to Timothy, and in return made him a tool in the fiendish ingenuity with which he drew up his will. In short, he made him co-guardian with Moordius to the pretty niece, who was under certain outrageous conditions to be heiress to his immense fortune.

From henceforth Timothy's blameless career as a chartered accountant trembled in the balance. Suzanne, the niece, after Timothy's return to Combermere's, took heart of grace, told her terrifying old relative to go to the devil, followed Timothy to London, and took up the reins of his household and the management of little Naomi with firm and competent hand.

Joseph Gabbetee was not accustomed to be consigned to the devil, and shortly afterwards died, leaving Timothy with charming Suzanne and her fortune, plus his co-guardian, Moordius.

We are not going to attempt to portray Moordius at length; it has taken a whole volume of Mr. Locke's genius to do so.

He was a fascinating brilliant rascal, who set out at once to persuade simple Timothy how foolish he was to remain at Combermere's when by joining Moordius & Co. he could live without household terrors. Needless to say, his scheme was to involve Timothy in the fraudulent conversion of Suzanne's fortune and further to marry the girl himself.

Under ordinary circumstances Suzanne, as we have seen, would be no easy dupe. It must be

* By William Locke. (Bodley Head).

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