

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

The opening of the Annexe of the Middlesex Hospital by the Rt. Hon. A. Neville Chamberlain, P.C., M.P., Minister of Health, on Tuesday, February 23rd, when his Royal Highness, Prince Arthur of Connaught, Chairman of the Hospital, presided at the opening ceremony, marked a very important occasion in the history of the hospital. This was emphasized by the Chairman who described it as the first outward and visible sign of the great scheme which the Committee had been forced to undertake, and the first definite step in the long march upon which they have set out. The transference of patients to this building from the wards of the old West Wing, in the circumstances itself a triumph of organisation, left that portion ready for the housebreakers as soon as the means justified a start.

The Annexe is the old Central London Sick Asylum, more recently used as a Children's Hospital by the Metropolitan Asylums Board. It was in a bad state of repair, but has now been regenerated and adapted, and will, the Prince said, maintain during the rebuilding of the hospital the full quota of beds, and its complete service to the public, as a treatment centre and a centre of research and medical education. It also in the future would provide an Out-patient Department, which he claimed would be infinitely superior to any rival in London as regards its floor space, equipment and absence of noise.

The Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health, in declaring the building open said that our voluntary hospitals were unique in the world, and if we were to discard the voluntary system it would be a national disaster of the first magnitude. It might be that some day we should succeed in so developing our Health Service as to come nearer to an ideal to which we ought all to look forward, to a plan under which there should be no unnecessary duplication, no waste, and no overlapping, and it might then be necessary to ask the voluntary hospitals to yield something of the complete independence they enjoy to-day, but if such a change came along, he felt sure it must be so contrived that there would be no impairment of the individuality, elasticity, and devotion which had characterised them throughout their existence.

Resolutions of thanks to the Minister of Health were offered by Lord Mildmay of Flete and Sir John Bland Sutton, and to Prince Arthur of Connaught by the Mayors of St. Pancras and St. Marylebone.

At the completion of the opening ceremony tea was served in one of the vacant wards, and then those present proceeded to view the building which has six wards of thirty-one beds in each, and two operating theatres with annexe, fitted in the most up-to-date manner. We specially noticed that the walls are green, a colour much more restful to the eye than the usual white paint. The electric light over the operating table is cleverly arranged to throw no shadow, wherever the surgeon may be working.

Among those present was H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., whose deep interest in hospitals is well known.

The Minister of Health has addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Voluntary Hospitals Commission explaining that he has come very reluctantly to the conclusion that in the present financial situation it is impracticable at this stage to proceed with the proposals made in the Commission's last report for a parliamentary grant towards the cost of hospital extensions.

The Council of the League of Nations is in Session at Geneva, when the burning question of representation by permanent seats or otherwise will be considered. Of course it was inevitable that all Sovereign nations would sooner or later seek equality on the Council of the League—and personally we think they should have it. We specially sympathise with China as its civilisation was in force when we were disputing ourselves in woad—and the West cannot, and never will, efficiently interpret Eastern psychology.

The Health Organisation of the League has a most useful field of exploration—and is coming to realise the value of skilled nursing in its activities. This section has arranged to hold next summer in London, Paris, and Hamburg special laboratory courses on malaria, which will be reserved exclusively for medical officers.

The Bishop of London recently visited Holy Trinity Church, Gray's Inn Road, and dedicated a chapel therein to the memory of "The Brave Women of the War."

The service, of which the dedication formed a part, was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. A. H. Hope-Smith, assisted by the Rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, the Rev. E. C. Bedford, and the large congregation included nurses from the London hospitals, representatives of various women's organisations, and the Mayors and Mayoresses of Holborn and Finsbury.

The chapel is draped in scarlet, above the altar table of black oak being a framed picture of the Virgin and Child, while the floor is paved with tiles of black and white marble.

The Bishop of London, after dedicating the chapel "to the Glory of God and the brave women of the war, especially those who gave their lives for their country," addressed the congregation. He said it was a very striking thing indeed that a poor parish in a poor district, seven years after the war, should be the first to put up such a memorial. Except for the Nurse Cavell Monument in Trafalgar Square, that was the first war memorial he had dedicated simply to the memory of brave women themselves. Nothing had stirred him more than the judicial murder of Nurse Cavell, and he had no desire to say a word which would foster animosity, but there was something about Edith Cavell's splendid courage and quiet faith which would always cause her to stand out as the leading woman who gave her life to her country in the war.

A Bill has been presented, and read a first time in the House of Commons, by Captain W. Benn (Leith, L.) to confer the Franchise on women on the same terms as men.

The text of the Equalisation of the Franchise Bill is now issued, it provides that women shall have the vote at 21 years of age instead of 30. It would be wiser to provide that both sexes should attain 25 years before being given such responsibility, but this we are informed would be strenuously opposed by men.

Our M.P.s dearly love a little joke—and indeed they are easily moved to laughter.

Miss Wilkinson once borrowed a male member's hat for the purpose of raising a point of order in the course of a division, and the tables—or, rather, the hats—were turned when Mr. Buchanan availed himself of Miss Wilkinson's toque for a similar purpose, much to the amusement of the House. Boys will be boys!

The King awarded the Gold Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea (Foreign Services) to members of the crew of the *President Roosevelt* in recognition of their services in rescuing the crew of the *Antinoe*, and in addition the Board of Trade awarded pieces of plate to Captain George Fried, Mr. Robert B. Miller, Mr. Thomas Sloan, and Mr.

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