

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

His Majesty the King has sent £50 to the fund now being raised to build a new wing in memory of Queen Alexandra at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Sick Children at Brighton. It has been decided to provide a violet ray clinic, an up-to-date operating theatre, an anæsthetic room, and additional accommodation for the resident medical staff. £10,000 is required for the purpose.

Both the Queen and the Prince of Wales have promised to visit Hackney shortly.

The Queen is to go there in the spring—probably in March—to lay the foundation-stone of the Metropolitan Hospital nurses' homes, which are being built at the corner of Enfield Road and St. Peter's Road, Kingsland, at a cost of over £60,000.

The Prince has consented to open the extension of Hackney Hospital on February 15th.

At a quarterly meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England recently Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, was elected an Honorary Fellow of the College in recognition of her distinguished work in connection with the nursing profession and the many hospitals throughout the country.

Princess Mary will formally open on Saturday, April 30th, the new buildings that have been erected in connection with the Nottingham General Hospital and Nottingham Children's Hospital. Towards £100,000 which the extension of the General Hospital has cost Mr. W. G. Player has contributed £50,000, while his brother, Mr. J. D. Player, has given the whole of the £40,000 required for the enlargement of the Children's Hospital.

These benefactions are specially interesting to the Editor, who began her training in the year 1878 at the beautiful little Children's Hospital at Nottingham—in the days when that brilliant woman, Miss Minks, presided, in conjunction with "Charlie," her most intelligent Clumber spaniel, who really was ruler of all he surveyed!

At the quarterly Comitia of the Royal College of Physicians Sir Francis Champneys was appointed the representative of the College on the Central Midwives' Board, and Dr. A. S. Woodward on the Central Council for District Nursing in London.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board has adopted recommendations for the carrying out of improvement schemes at mental and other hospitals involving an expenditure of £200,000.

Mr. Bernhard Baron has given to the London Hospital a sum of £25,000 for the endowment of the Bernhard Baron Pathological Institute.

He had already given £10,000 towards the cost of building the institute.

Mr. Baron has also given £10,000 to the rebuilding fund of the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. His gifts to charity amount to nearly £1,000,000.

Sooner or later the position of persons admitted as paying patients to Poor Law Infirmaries was bound to be tested in the Law Courts, and it recently arose in connection with an application to the Divisional Court before Mr. Justice Salter and Mr. Justice Talbot, for a rule nisi for a mandamus directed to the guardians of the Dartford Union commanding them to declare vacant the seat of a member of the Board by reason of the member having been in receipt of relief. The proceedings were of a friendly nature.

For the application it was argued that Mrs. Pyne, the lady guardian concerned, was disqualified from membership of the Board because, having been admitted into the infirmary as a private patient and undergone an operation (by her own doctor), although she had paid the sum agreed upon for her maintenance and treatment, she was technically a pauper and had received union or parochial relief.

The position has been under consideration of many boards of guardians, and the general opinion, in the absence of an authoritative ruling was, that a guardian who entered a hospital maintained by the guardians was technically disqualified although paying a sum covering the services rendered. The Dartford Guardians took the view that Mrs. Pyne was not disqualified. The Ministry of Health declined to advise on the subject.

Mr. Justice Salter, giving judgment, said it might be worthy of consideration whether the guardians were justified in allowing their infirmaries to be used for private patients. It might be proper to consider whether the guardians had been paid in full for every service the patient received. But those points were not raised in that case. The guardians, it was agreed, had been paid in full for every privilege and advantage the lady had received. Upon the affidavit presented to the Court there was in his lordship's opinion no evidence to show that the lady guardian had received "union or parochial relief," and in his opinion the application must be dismissed.

Mr. Justice Talbot agreed. He did not express any opinion as to whether the guardians had gone outside their function in giving "union or parochial relief." The proper proportion of all establishment and overhead charges had been paid by Mrs. Pyne, and in the circumstances it appeared impossible to say that the lady since her election to the Board of Guardians had received "union or parochial relief." He thought the rule must be refused.

This important decision will be received with much interest by Boards of Guardians throughout the kingdom.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Everyone who can procure a copy will be eager to read the Letters of Lady Augusta Stanley who, before her marriage to the famous Dean of Westminster, spent many years in the households of the Duchess of Kent and Queen Victoria. The life in the family circle of Royalty has a never failing interest. This was recognised by Lord Knutsford in his memoirs, "Black and White," in which he records what Royalty ate and drank—just what they wore, and how they passed their time, during his visits to Sandringham, and we were all just as pleased to know these details, as he was evidently delighted to have the opportunity of recording them.

MISS NIGHTINGALE.

The Times has in three articles given excerpts from these letters. Lady Augusta writes after the Crimea:—

"Miss Nightingale is 'the most important addition' to the Royal circle in Scotland.

"She is much less altered than expected—her beautiful countenance looks to me more beautiful than ever. . . . She is so modest and retiring and fearful of notice, but when people require information and are anxious to discuss with her for useful purposes, then, in her firm gentle way, she speaks with a lucidity and clearness quite as extraordinary as any other of her remarkable gifts. It is most touching to look on that slight delicate frame and think what it has been enabled to go through. The serenity, simplicity, unaffected natural cheerfulness, combined with such depth of character and thought. . . . The Queen showed her a whole book of photographs she has had done of the wounded and

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