

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Medical Schools which opened their Sessions on October 1st did so with meetings and most admirable addresses:—

The Prime Minister, Mr. MacDonald, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Old Students of the Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, held in the Great Hall of the institution. Lord Horder presided over a large gathering. The Prince of Wales sent the following message, which was read by the chairman amid cheers:

"Not only as president of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, but as a 'perpetual student' of the Medical College, I send my best wishes to all present at to-night's dinner. I welcome the decision to take advantage of the opportunity of moving to the site of Merchant Taylors' School, thus providing for the needs of the college, while at the same time vacating space which will be required for the extension of the hospital. I am glad to hear of the amount already raised towards the cost of the new college buildings, and wish all success to the present appeal. I hope that it will not be long before the students are settled in the residence that is to be provided for them, and I feel confident that the college, in its new home, will continue to play the great part for which, as the largest medical school in England, it is distinguished in the fields of medical education and research."

Lord Horder, in the name of the company assembled, sent a message to the Prince for his message, good wishes, and encouragement.

He also announced a donation of £1,000 towards the Medical School Fund from Lord Wakefield, "with best wishes for continued success and high repute in its new home." A Scottish friend of the Prime Minister and himself wrote that he would give a donation of £100 for seven years, adding, "If you keep me alive after that, I will see what more I can do." There was also a promise of £100 for 10 years, a cheque from Lord Leverhulme for £200, and another from "An Old Friend" for £300.

Dr. W. Langdon Brown, Regius Professor of Physic at the University of Cambridge, delivered the inaugural address to members and friends of Westminster Hospital Medical School assembled at the Hospital. Sir Henry Hadow, chairman of the School Committee, presided.

Dr. Langdon Brown said that a striking feature of twentieth-century medicine had been a return to the cult of Aesculapius: cleanliness, fresh air, suggestion, dream analysis, and psychological explanation. Until the War psychotherapy was looked upon as a crank and studiously avoided by the majority of the medical profession as savouring of quackery.

Medicine (he continued) was a department of biology, and unless they considered the patient as a whole, as a living organism reacting to changes in either the external or internal environment, they would miss an essential part of his case. Ordinary materialistic medicine was apt to forget the fact that the patient's emotional and mental outlook would inevitably influence and be influenced by his disease; the psychotherapist was apt to forget that the patient had a body which might be suffering from some physical distress. To-day there was still a craving for magical cures. It was by a combined attack on the physical and psychological side that medicine in the future would make advance.

Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard presented the prizes for the session 1932-33 at the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, University of London, at the opening of the session of the school in Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, after an able address.

Florence Nightingale Letter.

Sir Farquhar Buzzard asked the school to accept for its library a letter written by Florence Nightingale in November, 1874, enclosing a donation to a fund raised in memory of Dr. Frank Anstie, the first dean of the school and his (Sir Farquhar's) uncle by marriage.

In her tribute in the letter to the great work of Dr. Anstie Florence Nightingale used the quaint phrase: "Had he lived many thousands of deaths would not have died (if I may use such an expression) which now will fall victims to the want of Public Health measures of which he was such a devoted supporter."

The letter continued:—

When we were agitating to improve the new Sanitary Act by giving certain powers of inspection to local Boards we had in view such cases as the place where he laid down his valuable life to serve his country. They would not follow our advice (though they will some day). And there are many, many buildings where similar deaths are now taking place, and will continue to take place from want of this inspection. In our new Army buildings, these calamities are provided against. But the crying fault is that we have a great and costly sanitary organization which cannot touch the most powerful disease causes connected with houses and establishments. And one of our very best men of this or of any age has been called on to pay the penalty. I wish I could afford to send one hundred times more to his memorial than this petty £5.

The Dean of the school, Miss Bolton, announced that last session there was an entry of 85 students to the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, and there was a total of 346 working at the school and at the hospital.

Sir Gomer Berry, who is the Chairman of the Infants' Hospital, in Vincent Square, Westminster, has sent out an appeal in its support in a very artistic leaflet. The border of the notepaper on which it is made is a reproduction of the illumination on the leaves of the *Infant Lovers' Scroll*; inscribed on the vellum surface of this handsome scroll is a permanent record of the names of generous subscribers whose practical support has been lent to the work that is being done, and, of course, Sir Gomer Berry wishes that the names of all *Infant Lovers* should be added to this scroll, knowing full well that their number is legion.

For thirty years the Infants' Hospital has performed valuable work in the treatment of infantile disorders, and in research for the prevention of disease and the reduction of mortality amongst children. It was the first institution of its kind to be founded in Europe, and was established in 1903 by Sir Robert Mond for the treatment of diseases and disorders of nutrition. There are in the original hospital 50 cots, an out-patient department, a lecture theatre, milk and research laboratories, and an X-ray and artificial sunlight department.

For several years past there has been evident an urgent need for extensions, and these were put in hand late in 1931. When completed they will provide accommodation for 100 in-patients, and throughout the institution there will be improvements and extensions.

During 1932 practically the entire accommodation of 50 cots was taken up every day, and 835 patients (including 60 nursing-mothers) were treated. The out-patient department recorded 12,588 attendances and treated 2,404 new patients.

Part of the scheme which has already been carried out provided for a new operating theatre; and the new out-patient department, which was opened by H.R.H. The Princess Royal on October 31st last, has made a very material contribution to the efficiency of the institution and the ease with which these little suffering atoms of humanity can be treated and tenderly cared for.

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