

REVIEW.

"OIL AND WINE."*

"Oil and Wine," by Mr. Philip Inman, House Governor of Charing Cross Hospital, London, is a book which should be read by all who are interested in the voluntary hospitals of which this country is so justly proud, and especially by those who are supporters of Charing Cross Hospital, for it should prove a strong incentive to them to secure fresh subscribers to a hospital so efficiently managed, and, if they are able, to increase their own subscriptions.

The name of the book is, of course, inspired by the story of the Good Samaritan, who poured oil and wine into the wounds of the man who fell among thieves on his journey between Jerusalem and Jericho; "the memory of that deed has never faded from the minds of men. Its spirit, wafted along the centuries like a fragrant perfume, finds embodiment to-day in the organised ministry of healing, with its triumphs of medical science and surgical skill, to the never-failing wonder of which this book is a sincere tribute."

Pen and Ink Portraits.

How much the reputation and success of a hospital depends upon its Chairman and those responsible for its direction, we all realise. In this respect Charing Cross Hospital is exceptionally fortunate, and Mr. Inman gives us some pen and ink portraits of its high officials.

THE CHAIRMAN.

First the Chairman, Mr. George Verity, who for over a quarter of a century has held that onerous yet honorary position. "What the institution owes to him," writes Mr. Inman, "no words can ever adequately express. It was at a very critical time in its history that he came to the rescue. Half the wards were closed. Most of its equipment was derelict. Many a time there had not been sufficient money in the bank to pay the wages at the end of the week. With a superhuman will and a facile pen, Mr. Verity set to work. As a venture of faith he reopened almost immediately some of those closed wards. He reorganised and renovated the whole building, until from roof to basement it was thoroughly equipped and in efficient working order. His green and red pamphlets, circulated every year, not only in this country, but throughout the world, have brought in substantial sums. Subscriptions have reached us in francs, marks, lira, pesetas, yen, taels, dollars, rubies and roubles. Charing Cross Hospital will for ever stand as a monument to the great work of my Chairman and friend, Mr. George Verity."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Here is a portrait of the Vice-Chairman. "Mr. J. S. Elias, who is the Chairman and Managing Director of a large and important business, is also the Vice-Chairman of the hospital. It is not the language of extravagance to say that he is a tower of strength to the institution both in his invaluable advice, and in his magnificent support. In addition to his other great qualities, he is an adept in the art of raising funds, as many another charitable institution besides Charing Cross can testify. As for ourselves, we have every reason to be grateful. In twelve months he succeeded in obtaining well over fifteen thousand pounds. That is no mean record in a time of industrial depression. That hospital is blessed indeed which has amongst its leading counsellors such a man as Mr. J. S. Elias."

AN HON. TREASURER.

Again Mr. Inman writes:—"Reference must be made to one other of our great benefactors. If a friendly

competition could be held to discover our most popular peer, the name of Lord Lonsdale would stand very high on the list. For twenty years he has served the hospital as one of its honorary Treasurers. We are proud of all our wards, but there is one which visitors invariably admire. It is the Shanghai Ward, with its beautifully tiled plaques and it is dedicated to the Shanghai Race Club. The hospital has Lord Lonsdale to thank for that endowment, for the stewards in far-away Shanghai sent him a munificent cheque for fifteen thousand pounds. And that is only one of his many wonderful services."

THE MATRON.

One more portrait. "Twenty years ago there came to Charing Cross Hospital a junior probationer. To-day she occupies the highest office in her profession—that of Matron to a general hospital with a teaching school attached to it. And during those years she has occupied every position open to a nurse. She has served as Ward-Sister, Night-Superintendent, Home-Sister, Sister-Tutor and Assistant Matron. Her name is Miss M. S. Cochrane, S.R.N., and Charing Cross Hospital has reason to be proud of her. She is considered an expert in her profession. She is a Vice-President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and President of the Matrons' Council. She has received the Royal Red Cross and is a Lady of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. But experts can be very cold and formal. Miss Cochrane is not that. She has not only a head but a heart as well. To see her is an inspiration. To work with her is a privilege. And to know her is to love her. Matron Cochrane is 'on the line' in the Royal Academy of many a patient's memory."

THE HOUSE GOVERNOR.

And what of the House Governor upon whom so much depends? Naturally Mr. Inman cannot write of his own qualities and excellencies. We must discover these from internal evidences, and we shall not have far to seek. Writing on the choice of a career, Mr. Inman says:—"The hospital administrator must number amongst his qualifications organising ability, tact and diplomacy, up-to-date business methods and an intimate knowledge of finance. But there is a personal as well as a commercial side to hospital affairs . . . That is where hospital work differs from modern business. The efficiency of a hospital is not that of a cold, calculating machine, but of a perfected human instrument. Patients who seek its aid are human beings with the frailties of human nature; modern business does not recognise human weakness. Patients are never free from sentiment; formal officialdom cannot tolerate it . . . A great reverence and a deep love for mankind are qualities which transform a hospital into a guest-house. The hospital official must play his part as one of the hosts." And again: "The life of a hospital official is a wonderful career . . . for sheer adventure, infinite variety and self-sacrificing service I know of no other work to compare with it." When the House Governor of a hospital is so enthused his outlook and keenness are communicated to his subordinates, and filter down to the most junior clerk. What wonder then that the affairs of the institution are prosperous.

On the collection of subscriptions, and the blazing of new trails, Mr. Inman has some wise things to say and amusing experiences to relate:—"When I first entered the hospital world it was customary to send a printed notice: 'Your subscription is now due. Will you please remit.' To-day such a request would meet with the fate it deserves—a speedy relegation to the waste-paper basket. Most of the appeals sent through the post do not evoke sympathy but complete indifference. I started a different plan of campaign. Instead of bombarding the public with letters

* Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 11, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. 8/6.

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