

## THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

### OPENING OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

Many wise and interesting addresses were given at the opening of the Medical Schools at the beginning of this month.

#### St. Thomas's Hospital.

At the St. Thomas's Hospital Old Students' Dinner held at the Dorchester Hotel, Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., the Treasurer, replying to the toast of St. Thomas's Hospital and Medical School, proposed by Dr. W. L. Wainwright from the chair, announced that the reconstruction work at the hospital was going on very well. So far about half of it had been done. By August of next year he hoped there would be a formal opening of the new out-patients' department.

All this work had been done without incurring further debt as the result of a gift of £20,000 some years ago which had been invested in Government stock and which sum, partly as a result of the Conversion operations, had more than doubled itself. They were also reconditioning all the wards. There were now only two blocks left to be done, and these they hoped to complete within twelve months. Less cheerful news was that he had been informed within the last few days that some of the stonework on the roof of the hospital was unsafe and in danger of falling down on to the Embankment. It would be necessary for them to spend an additional £3,000 or £4,000 to repair that. They had, however, still got some money left in the till, and it was also their intention to improve the dining and studying rooms in the College House.

#### The Middlesex Hospital.

The opening of the one-hundredth Winter Session of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, which took place at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., on October 1st, drew a large and enthusiastic audience. The crowded platform presented a very imposing spectacle, the robes and hoods of the honorary staff giving a brilliant mass of colour, eclipsing the floral decorations which formed its setting.

Facing the platform were grouped a goodly company of the Nursing Staff in the uniforms of their various grades.

Mr. Harry Stubbs, F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M., presided over the organ and delighted the audience with a varied programme, the Choral Song by Wesley being especially charming.

The chair was taken by Mr. Samuel A. Courtauld, Chairman of the Council of the Medical School, who, as was announced later, has added to his former munificence a further gift of £15,000 to establish a Clinical Research Unit.

The Introductory Address, entitled "Our Profession," was delivered by Dr. Henry MacCormac, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P. He gave an interesting account of "Some of the bye-paths of medical training from the foundation of the College of Physicians in the reign of Henry VIII. to recent times," and showed how that formerly there existed three separate estates, physicians, surgeons and apothecaries, each with clearly defined functions and carefully guarded privileges.

Surgeons, with few exceptions, were drawn from the humblest ranks. Thomas Gale, writing in the 16th Century, says that: "Few that have well brought up their sons will put him to the arts, because it is accounted so beggarly and vile"—while the apothecary is told "To meddle only in his vocation, and to bear in mind he is only the physician's cook." He is instructed to have two places in his shop, "one the most clean for physic, and a baser place for the chirurgic stuff."

Throughout four hundred years, by a slow process of evolution, the three estates, physicians, surgeons and

apothecaries, originally distinct, have progressed and developed, to be united into the single body of the medical profession.

The prizes and medals gained by students and nurses were presented by Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Bt., K.V.O., LL.D., D.M., F.R.C.P., Regius Professor of Medicine in the University of Oxford.

After the presentation to the students the following Nurses came up to the platform to receive their awards:

*Gold Medal*—Nurse Cynthia Avril Wade.

*Silver Medal*—Nurses Dorothy Gertrude Ella Ayres.

*Bronze Medal*—Nurse Margery Hale.

*Prize for Proficiency in the Operating Theatre*—Divided between Nurse Joan Morton and Nurse Margery Hale.

*Examination Prizes*—Medical: Nurse Agnes McKechnie Pilkington. Surgical: Nurse Phyllis Mary Ingersent.

After the various votes of thanks the company adjourned to the new buildings of the Hospital, where tea was served in the Nurses' Home and the Medical School Restaurant. Very adequate provision was made for the large company, and the staff are to be congratulated for the efficiency with which the hospitality was dispensed.

A description of the beautiful Nurses' Home has been given already in these pages. One was impressed with the complete arrangement for the nurses' well-being, without extravagance. We specially noticed the incinerator placed outside the lavatories, as being the last word in convenience and hygiene. We were informed that it was kept always burning.

Hard tennis courts and a magnificent swimming bath are among the proud possessions of the Middlesex Nurses.

#### The Westminster Hospital.

At the Westminster Hospital, Sir John Simon said that the question they had to ask themselves was how it was possible for a man or woman about to enter on a technical competitive professional life to find time, strength, and energy to maintain interest and contact with a wider range of subjects and especially with those subjects associated with taste, judgment, beauty, and truth which were called literature, music, art, and the more philosophical aspects of life. He knew the difficulty from his own experience. There was a danger that the first freshness and the closeness of the interest and contact with these wider fields of culture would weaken; and, yet, with an effort, it was possible, not indeed to keep oneself abreast, but still to keep such a contact with some of them as would make a man not only a doctor or a lawyer but a civilised human being. In their medical school, at the beginning of a term of technical professional work, it was well worth while considering some aspects of this matter.

The point could be put in the form of an old tradition of the Inner Temple. There was a story that one day a judge who met Serjeant Talfourd said to him: "They tell me that you know all about Shakespeare. I have never read any of him. Which play do you think I had better read first?" Serjeant Talfourd recommended him to begin with *Romeo and Juliet*, and a few weeks afterwards he asked him if he had read it, the judge replied: "Yes, I have read it. It is a tissue of improbabilities from beginning to end." That was rather an example of the danger of the cobbler sticking too closely to his last. It was remarkable that at a time when the "compartmental" view of knowledge—the idea that they could get a bit of it in a package and that that was all that they wanted—was being more and more rejected, active-minded men should find themselves so engrossed in their own specialised activities.

#### The Royal Free Hospital.

Speaking at the opening session of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, Dr. M. H. MacKeith, Dean of the Post Graduate Medical School

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