

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

There is little doubt that the Middlesex Hospital is guarded by a good fairy who simply scatters showers of gold. How otherwise could the new Middlesex have been opened recently by the Duke of York, who was able to announce that the whole capital cost of the buildings had already been raised!

At the opening ceremony two further large gifts were announced.

A letter was read from Mr. E. W. Meyerstein promising £50,000 towards the endowment of the X-ray therapy department given by the same benefactor, and also stated that Mr. W. H. Collins proposed to endow, with a gift of £50,000, the department of X-ray diagnosis which he had provided.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Duchess of York, and accompanied by the Matron, Miss Smith, inspected a guard of honour of Nurses, a junior probationer



The Duke and Duchess of York in a ward at the New Middlesex Hospital, London.

presenting a bouquet to the Duchess. In declaring the hospital open the Duke in a most appreciative speech said:—

"The Middlesex Hospital has won many distinctions in the world of scientific research. Perhaps one of the most important was the discovery of the water-process production of insulin evolved in your laboratories, whereby the results of Sir Frederick Banting's work were brought within the reach of all sufferers from diabetes. Much valuable progress has also been made in medical and surgical technique generally as the result of your research work. Not only does the Middlesex Hospital triumph in recent developments of cancer research, but as far back as 1792 it was a pioneer by establishing special wards for advanced cases of cancer.

"As President of the British Empire Cancer Campaign I would like to congratulate the Middlesex Hospital in playing a very important and distinguished part towards the fight against this dread disease."

Our magnificent voluntary hospitals are a truly beneficent asset in our national organization and must be guarded at all costs. Experience has taught us that the care of the sick must spring from the heart and inspire personal service. The day our hospitals are governed from a bureaucratic centre will see the relaxation of individual interest and substitute mechanical service for personal initiative, and good fairies will flit away. Every effort must be made to maintain the voluntary system. But we must satisfy ourselves that the very poor are being served to the utmost as in the good old days. We realise the cost of scientific medical and nursing service as at present administered, but we must cling to spiritual association with the sick and needy—or we may as well organise our hospitals on the telephone and the wireless and lose the human touch.

The King and Queen have sent £50 to the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. In forwarding the donation, the King's private secretary states that their Majesties were deeply touched by a sermon which they heard Mr. Fellowes-Farrow, the organising secretary, preach while they were at Eastbourne.

Her Royal Highness Princess Victoria is to open the new Sussex Eye Hospital, of which she is Patron, at 3 p.m., on July 2nd.

The hospital, which has been built in Eastern Road, has cost £40,000.

The treasurers of St. George's Hospital have received a donation of £1,000 to the rebuilding and endowment funds from the Duke of Kent, President of the Hospital, from the proceeds of the exhibition of wedding presents at St. James's Palace.

Over £110,000 towards the £1,000,000 needed for building the new St. George's has to date been subscribed by the public.

A commission of inquiry is to be appointed to investigate the position of the voluntary hospitals.

A statement was issued to this effect at the end of the British Hospitals Association conference at Leamington Spa.

A resolution was unanimously adopted instructing the commission "To take into consideration the present position of the voluntary hospitals of the country; to inquire whether, in view of recent legislative and social developments, it is desirable that any step should be taken to promote their interests, develop their policy and safeguard their future, and to frame such recommendations as may be thought expedient and acceptable."

The Committee of the Chelmsford Hospital have announced that the gift of £20,000 by Mrs. J. H. Keene, of Carlton House, Galleywood, Chelmsford, in memory of her husband, the late Mr. John Henry Keene, shall be used to add to the hospital a John Henry Keene block of three wards.

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