

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, recently laid the foundation stone of the nurses' home at the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., of which she is President. The Princess was received by Mr. Carmichael Thomas, Chairman of the Management Committee, who said the estimated cost of the new quarters was £30,000, of which £12,000 had already been subscribed. The site had been provided by an anonymous friend who had contributed £2,000 for the purpose.

The Medical School of the Middlesex Hospital has been keeping high festival in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

On the afternoon of July 24th, the Earl of Athlone, Chancellor of the University of London, at a ceremony presided over by Prince Arthur of Connaught, Chairman of the hospital, presented the prizes and medals gained by students and nurses during the year, and Mr. A. E. Webb Johnson, Hon. Treasurer of the Medical School gave an Address on "The First Hundred Years" in the course of which he said that in view of the revolution in all branches of life during the past century it was not surprising that changes which amounted to a revolution had taken place in the science and practice of medicine. He enumerated the many directions in which progress had been made, both in the world of medicine and in the history of the hospital and its medical school, and said that the present proud position of the school was due to their alliance with their great University and to their benefactors of recent years: Bland Sutton, the Joels, John Astor, and others. But, after all, whether a School was under State or university control, whether its endowments were great or small, its equipment palatial or humble, the inherent vital element lay in the men who worked in its halls, and in the ideals which they cherished and taught.

On the evening of the same day Prince Arthur of Connaught, and Mr. S. A. Courtauld received a large number of guests at a scientific evening in the Medical School, where many interesting exhibits were on view, including a film on the circulation of the blood shown by Professor Samson Wright, and experiments with liquid air made by Professor W. B. Tuck.

The Duke of Kent recently visited St. George's Hospital (of which he is President) to learn the latest details of the rebuilding and endowment fund and to receive an album containing 2,629 names of subscribers to his wedding gift fund in aid of the hospital.

The presentation of the album took place in the board room, and it was announced that the sum raised by the wedding gift fund was £33,582 19s. 8d. This sum has brought the total gifts and promises towards the £1,000,000 rebuilding and endowment fund to £133,000.

The Duke afterwards visited several wards and talked with patients.

As a result of the Geranium Day collection in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, £7,510 8s. 4d. was received. The cost of the collection was £907 0s. 11d. the net result being £6,603 7s. 5d. The sum of £6,288 4s. 10d. was collected in the Metropolitan Police Area, at a cost of £760 17s. 6d., yielding a net total of £5,527 7s. 3d.

The Swiss Federal authorities have informed the International Red Cross Committee that the Ethiopian Government have announced through their Minister in Paris their ratification of the Geneva International Convention of 1929 for the betterment of the conditions of sick and wounded on the battlefield.

A FINE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR.

In our last issue we could only notify very briefly the death of Mr. Harry Johnson, House Governor and Secretary of the Leicester Royal Infirmary, a notification of which will have been received with great regret by the many nurses who have passed through the famous training school connected with the infirmary since his appointment in 1904, for he was always appreciative of the work of the nurses and in sympathy with their professional aspirations.

Mr. Johnson was a man of outstanding ability and sterling quality, ever ready to be of service, and his experience and knowledge of hospital administration has been of immeasurable value not only to the Leicester Royal Infirmary to which he had rendered untiring and devoted service, but also through the advice and help he has given on many occasions to other hospitals and organisations.

His lifetime of work and the great zeal he exercised in the application of his office to the advancement of voluntary hospitals are a matter of pride to those who have been associated with him.

The increase in the number of endowed beds and cots and the investments of the Royal Infirmary during the last thirty years merit particular reference.

In 1904 the number of endowed beds was six and the total investments £47,501. In 1934 the number of endowed beds and cots was 214, and the total investments £408,819.

Many extensions of the Infirmary have taken place during Mr. Johnson's term of office, one of the first (in 1906) being the rebuilding of the South-east wing, one ward being named the Gertrude Rogers ward, and the erection of a Nurses' Home—followed by many other developments. That the Infirmary as it stands to-day takes so high a place in the ranks of the provincial voluntary hospitals is due, to no small extent, to the labours of Mr. Harry Johnson.

ANTI-CHEMICAL WARFARE MEASURES.

Three resolutions, relating to chemical warfare, submitted by the Kingston-on-Thames branch of the British Medical Association were carried by the recent annual representative meeting, these urged that instruction should be given in anti-chemical warfare measures to medical students; that similar instruction should be available for postgraduates; and that in view of the necessity for educating the public in measures of protection against chemical warfare, the British Medical Association should ask for the co-operation of its members.

The chairman of the Representative Body stated that recently the medical secretary of the association (Dr. G. C. Anderson) and himself were invited to a conference at the Ministry of Health, at which many other bodies of an educational type were represented to discuss that matter. They found that the Ministry of Health, in conjunction with the Home Office and the War Office, were fully alive to the necessity of educating the civil population in the matter. The authorities wished to make use of the machinery of the British Medical Association for that purpose. Through their divisions and branches they were in an exceptional position for diffusing the necessary knowledge among the medical men of the country. Every conceivable precaution would be taken to ensure that the medical and nursing services of the country and the civilian population were trained in those matters.

Dr. A. T. Jones, of Mountain Ash, moved "the Association should concentrate, and use its influence towards the prevention and total abolition of all chemical warfare."

Dr. Jones, in moving the resolution said that it was not possible to have any adequate protection against any kind of poison gas. It was suggested that we might be supplied with gas masks and seek protection in underground cellars. He thought that meant we should be suffocated in our own juices. The motion was approved with applause.

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