

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

A meeting of the President and General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, for the purpose of awarding grants to the Hospitals and Convalescent Homes for the present year, was held at the House of Lords on December 11th, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales being in the Chair.

Message from The King.

In opening the meeting His Royal Highness said:—
I have first the honour of reading a gracious message from His Majesty the King, our Patron:—

“Buckingham Palace.

“The King is glad to hear that King Edward's Hospital Fund is again this year distributing the sum of £320,000. His Majesty is delighted that the same standard can be kept up, and feels that this is indeed a great tribute to those who support the King's Fund, as well as to those who manage its affairs.”

Continuing, the Prince of Wales said, in part:—

For the third year in succession we are maintaining our ordinary distribution at £300,000; and this, with £20,000 in special grants towards the pensions scheme, makes a total of £320,000.

Patients' Waking Hours.

I am glad to see, from the Distribution Committee's report, that several more hospitals have adopted the waking hour of 6 o'clock for their patients, as recommended by the Special Committee of the King's Fund. The hospitals which still have an earlier hour represent only 15 per cent. of all the patients in London, including those in some of the special hospitals, where earlier hours may be necessary. The King's Fund report recognised that the question was not as easy as many people thought; but it is hoped that the difficulties at most of these hospitals may yet be overcome.

Hospitals and Road Accidents.

The problem of road accidents continues to cause serious embarrassment to hospitals in two ways: they occupy beds which are badly needed for other purposes, and they cause heavy expense to hospital funds which are contributed for those other purposes.

Time-Saving Methods in Out-Patient Departments.

The Out-patient Arrangements Committee have very nearly finished preparing their memorandum on time-saving methods at the dispensary stage of procedure, when out-patients get their medicine.

Grants for District Nursing Work for Out-Patients.

Another of the recommendations of the Out-patient Committee of 1932 is referred to in the Management Committee's report on District Nurses, which is before you to-day. They suggest a method by which the King's Fund would be able, at the same time, to achieve two useful objects: to help financially in the extension of District Nursing work, and to encourage one of the ways of relieving the pressure on the out-patient departments. Some out-patients have to see the hospital doctor only occasionally, while at their other visits they do not need anything except nursing attention, which could often be provided at their homes by District Nurses, if only the District Nursing Associations could afford to increase their work. What the Management Committee recommend is that the King's Fund as soon as it is in a position to provide an additional £2,000 a year for the purpose, should make extra grants to the hospitals, to enable the hospitals to pay the District Nursing Associations for cases of this kind, attended

by District Nurses at home while still out-patients of the hospitals. This will, of course, involve an increase in the ordinary distribution.

The Chairman of the Management Committee presented its report, which stated that the Committee hoped to be able to recommend in 1935 that the sum of £2,000 over and above the ordinary distribution of £300,000 should be distributed to hospitals, to be allocated by hospitals to District Nursing Associations for out-patients attended by District Nurses in their homes while still patients of the hospitals; and recommended (a) that the principle of assisting the work of the District Nursing Associations by this method be approved; and (b) that the hospitals be asked to keep records, as from January 1st, 1935, of the cases of this kind.

Sir William Collins, as Chairman of the Central Council for District Nursing, having expressed appreciation of the adoption of the principle that the King's Fund should assist financially the work of the District Nursing services, the motion was carried unanimously.

The King has sent £1,000—his annual subscription—to King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

The King has consented to the new extension at Moorfields Eye Hospital being known as the “King George V. Extension.” It is expected that the new building will be finished by the end of March. It will cost £110,000.

The Prince of Wales, Grand President of the League of Mercy, presiding at the Thirty-fifth annual meeting of Presidents of the League at the Mansion House urged the importance of organised support for hospitals through King Edward's Hospital Fund rather than in many sporadic individual efforts for individual hospitals.

“It was,” said His Royal Highness, “King Edward's great idea that we should all subscribe annually to King Edward's Hospital Fund. That would swell the amount of money they have, give them much greater powers, and would save a great deal of overlapping, and is a thing we must seriously consider if we are going to maintain the voluntary system of our hospitals of which we are so proud. So it is the spirit and idea of this League to collect and give to a central body.”

The Princess Royal, President of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, recently opened extensions which include a new in-patient block with small wards, each having open-air balconies, to accommodate 70 little patients, seven single rooms with a bed for a mother and a cot for the baby she is nursing, operating theatres and a home for 36 nurses.

The hospital is very completely equipped for its purpose, which is the treatment of children under five years of age, and in the words of its Medical Director, Dr. Eric Pritchard, is “not only of immediate benefit to its own small patients, but a source of light, leading and instruction to the ever increasing stream of medical students from all quarters of the world.”

At a recent meeting of the Court of Governors of the Middlesex Hospital, Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Chairman, referred to the success of the reconstruction scheme of the hospital and described the closing of the building appeal as a wonderful achievement.

The closing of the building appeal was, His Royal Highness said, a really wonderful achievement, and a remarkable testimony to the vitality of the voluntary system for which they stood. But it must not be thought that their need for money was over. When the buildings were finished and paid for there would be a great deal of expensive equipment required for the many new wards

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)