

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has appointed Sir Ernest Pooley to be an Honorary Secretary of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London.

The Treasurers of St. George's Hospital gratefully acknowledge the receipt of an anonymous donation of £1,000, for the naming of a bed in the new St. George's Hospital.

The Hospital has also received a donation of £746 0s. 9d., representing a proportion of the net amount received for entrance fees to the Antique Dealers' Fair and Exhibition recently held in the Great Hall at Grosvenor House.

A British Red Cross Society ambulance aeroplane, a D.H. Dragon, fitted for stretcher cases, has been put into service at Croydon.

The King Edward's Hospital Fund in London has decided to set aside a Silver Jubilee Fund of £120,000 towards schemes of capital expenditure on London hospitals.

The money will be taken from accumulated savings and the profits on sales of seats at the Jubilee celebrations.

The record sum of £12,438 in legacies was left to the Miller General Hospital, Greenwich, this year. Receipts exceeded expenditure by about £5,000.

The exhibition of wedding presents given to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will remain open at St. James's Palace provisionally until December 21st.

The presents will be on view daily from ten to five. The price of admission is one shilling, and profit is to go to charitable institutions.

STEPNEY'S NEW TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. Glass that Prevents Shadows.

A new type of window glazing is one of the most interesting features of Stepney's new tuberculosis dispensary at Devonport Street, E.1, which was opened by the Mayor of Stepney on November 6th. The Dispensary is now open to the public.

The Dispensary windows, facing south, are fitted with the new glazing material, known as Thermolux, which is a compound glass consisting of two sheets of plain glass, with an interlayer of spun-glass silk threads, regularly arranged. The interlayer is porous and contains air, which is kept in by hermetically sealed edges.

When a ray of sunlight enters a room through ordinary glazing material, it does so in a direct line and any object which it meets is bound to cast a shadow. The peculiar quality of this new glass is to intercept the rays of sunlight, and distribute them throughout the room in a diffused white light, which, if not quite, is almost without shadows.

The need for adequate lighting in a dispensary is self-evident. If the X-rays, Tuberculin-test, and the stethoscope are essential to the tuberculosis officer in diagnosing a case, his eyes are equally so, and the advantages of an evenly distributed light, where there are no violent contrasts of light and shade, no glare from polished surfaces, and no tinge of colour communicated by the glass, are incalculable.

As has so often happened in the history of science, this invention sprang a surprise on the inventor. By adopting the process of manufacture already described he had hoped primarily to conquer the shadow cast by a ray of sunlight, but he found that his invention also gave him control over its heat. This new glazing material, in fact, unlike ordinary glass, acts as a powerful insulator against solar heat rays, and so will keep the temperature of the dispensary cool in summer. In winter, it will reduce more than any other glass, the loss of heat, and so lessen the cost of artificial heating.

PROFESSIONAL REVIEW.

"MANUAL OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY."*

The "Manual of Human Physiology" by Sir Leonard Hill, M.B., LL.D., F.R.S., Hon. A.R.I.A., is intended to give the general reader, and one who has not received a scientific education, some insight into the wonderful complexity of structure and function which taken together compose a living man. It also aims at being useful as a text-book for nurses undergoing hospital training, for which object it is certainly well qualified.

Sir Leonard Hill in his preface to the first edition (the one recently published is the fourth) states that "from his experience as an examiner the author has become aware how frequently the students of elementary physiology learn by rote, and not by observation and experiment. Physiology is," he says, "a subject which cannot be learnt from a text-book alone, and the private student who fails to carry out the simple practical work described in these pages will prove himself to be but a half-hearted labourer in the field of knowledge."

The author tells us that he has endeavoured to lay stress on such facts as are of real human interest, and to exclude all unimportant details which interfere with a broad view of his subject.

In the present edition, which has been revised, a chapter has been added on Reproduction, concerning which the author says, "the need for knowledge concerning the nature of sex, and the means by which the young are born, is now generally recognised, and no elementary text-book of Physiology can any longer be considered complete without such a chapter."

How little did we know, even ten years ago, of the ductless glands and their functions, the spleen, the pancreas, the thyroid gland, the pituitary gland, and the supra-renal capsules. But the extreme importance of these is now recognised. Thus "the pituitary gland is a small body lying in the cavity of the skull at the base of the brain. It consists of an anterior, an intermediate, and a posterior part which differ in structure and origin. It appears to act as an overlord of other glands of internal secretion. Overgrowth of the anterior part of this gland leads to overgrowth of the body and particularly of the extremities, hence men of giant size sometimes arise. The gland by its internal secretion has actions on certain reproductive organs, and an extract can be obtained from the posterior part which is useful for injection in conditions of shock."

Again, "The supra-renal capsules are two little glands situated in the abdomen. One rests on the top of each kidney. They are in shape something like a cocked hat. . . . When these glands become diseased in man, death occurs from gradual and advancing exhaustion. At the same time the man's skin may become coloured brown. . . . It is a very remarkable fact that the presence of such little glands as the supra-renals should be absolutely essential to the existence of the whole body."

"The liver, the kidneys, the pancreas, the thyroid, the pituitary and the supra-renal glands draw substances out of the blood and return products to it. The waste products of one organ may be the good products of the others, and it is only by such give and take that the whole body can be preserved in health."

The concluding chapter is concerned with death. Much the students of physiology have learnt, and yet "the greater mysteries of life remain unsolved. . . . Finally there is ever before us the mystery of death."

We cordially recommend this book, both for the clarity with which it imparts information, and for its power to stimulate thought.

*Edward Arnold & Co., 41 and 43, Maddox Street, W.1. Price 6/6.

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