

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

THE BICENTENARY OF THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE COUNTY HOSPITAL.

Next year the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, attains its Bicentenary, and already preparations are being made to celebrate this event in an appropriate manner. Meanwhile a well-informed article by W. H. P. in the *Southern Daily Echo* should do much to arouse interest in this important event. From this it appears that on a day in the late summer of 1736 a company of citizens, nobility and gentry met for the founding of a County Hospital for the lame, sick, etc. Subscriptions were invited. In less than three months the money required for launching the hospital was forthcoming.

"The initiative of calling the meeting was Dr. Alured Clarke's. A Fellow of Corpus Christi, Cambridge, rector of Chilbolton, and Prebend of Winchester Cathedral, he was a man of immense foresight and a deep love of his fellows.

"Suitable premises were found in Colebrook Street, Winchester, and the hospital was opened on St. Luke's Day, October 1st, 1736.

"Crowds flocked to the Cathedral to attend the service which marked the opening ceremony. Dr. Clarke, who was to be the first chairman of the Hospital Committee, preached a moving sermon, which was afterwards printed, and is still preserved."

By 1865 the premises had become completely inadequate.

"Situated to the west of the city is a hill from the summit of which, on a clear day, it is possible to catch a glimpse of those mossy hills forming the backbone of the Isle of Wight, and where the fresh breezes come uncontaminated from the Channel. On this hill, overlooking the city and many miles of undulating Hampshire downland and vale, Florence Nightingale—the Lady of the Lamp—a Hampshire woman, selected a site for the second edition of the great Hampshire County Hospital. And here the hospital still stands."

"It was Florence Nightingale who had the plans for the present building prepared. They were drawn on the block-system—a particular in which the Hospital Committee again revealed their progressive spirit, because up to that time only the big London hospitals had adopted this lay-out—and met with her entire approbation.

"Searching one day in a lumber room at the top of the hospital, Mr. Herbert Maslen, the present secretary, unearthed the original minute books of the committee. These make interesting reading."

In them it is recorded that on October 9th, 1736, Mrs. Abigail Aston, late of the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, was appointed as Matron of the hospital at a salary of ten pounds a year.

"Before the end of 1736 there was trouble amongst the staff. The result was that the matron resigned her post, and one of the nurses, a Mrs. Annie Hale, was appointed in her stead, at the same salary and without any more allowance in consideration of any additional trouble whatever.

"In April, 1737, the chairman (Dr. Clarke) presented to Sir Robert Walpole (Chancellor of the Exchequer), a memorial in the name of the Governors, and he later told the Governors there was reason to expect a benefaction from the King.

"A month or two later 'his bounteous Majesty' sent a useful gift of 200 guineas."

Such is the interesting story of the foundation and early years of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital. What a fund of quaint and interesting details old minute books can provide!

Lord Greville and Lord Winchelsea, the treasurers of St. George's Hospital, announce that it has been decided to rebuild the hospital on its present site at Hyde Park Corner. The work of rebuilding is to begin immediately, and a campaign to raise the necessary funds has been launched. To rebuild, equip, and endow the new St. George's Hospital will cost nearly £1,000,000. The fund now stands at £61,000, and in addition Mr. E. W. Meyerstein has promised to subscribe £25,000 on condition that eight others each give a like amount. The Duke of Kent, the president of the hospital, has written to wish success to the appeal.

In response to an appeal from Lord Harewood, the Bernhard Baron Trustees have offered to give £1,000, in four annual instalments, to re-equip and improve the X-Ray Department of the West End Hospital for Nervous Diseases. The Committee of the Hospital has decided to name the Department the Bernhard Baron X-Ray Department, in token of its appreciation and gratitude.

Once more Mr. E. W. Meyerstein has made a generous gift to the Middlesex Hospital, guaranteeing £20,000 for residential provision for senior students, particularly those attached to the surgical unit on emergency duty, and those attending the maternity unit.

This brings Mr. Meyerstein's gifts to the Middlesex Hospital, of which he is a Vice-President, to over £200,000 within the last twelve months.

The purchase of a site adjoining St. John's Gardens, Horseferry Road, by the Governors of Westminster Hospital has been completed, and the foundation-stone of the first wing of the new hospital will be laid this year.

The funds of the British Red Cross Society have benefited to the amount of £2,005 from the Red Cross ball which was held at Grosvenor House on November 28.

Sir John Pilter, Hon. Chairman of the Hertford British Hospital, Paris, is appealing for support for the Hospital, which is in most urgent need of funds. He writes in the *Times* :—

"The hospital is doing a great and much-needed work, receiving, as it does, in addition to the members of the permanent British colony in France, patients who are visitors from every part of the British Empire. During the last five years alone 3,000 in-patients and 35,000 out-patients have been admitted and treated. Since the maternity wards were opened in 1931 by his Grace the Duke of Atholl 1,180 babies have been born there."

Donations may be sent to Sir John Pilter, the Hertford British Hospital, 48, Rue de Villiers, Levallois-Perret (Seine), France; or Sir John Pilter, care of Miss Ketchen, London Financial Secretary, Hertford British Hospital, 58, Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

JOHN BOND'S MARKING INK OUTFIT.

To those who are responsible for the marking of household linen, etc., John Bond's new 7½d. Marking Ink will prove a great boon. It contains, in addition to the famous Marking Ink, a special pen and holder, and last, but not least, a new self-adjusting linen stretcher, for holding any thickness of material firmly whilst marking. It is actually as simple as writing on paper. No household should be without one, as all household linen, children's school outfits and other articles can be readily and plainly marked at infinitesimal cost. The smallest size bottle contains sufficient ink to mark 586 average names. It can be obtained from all Stationers and Chemists in 6d., 7½d. and 1s. bottles.

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