

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Dr. A. B. Howitt, M.P., presiding at the recent annual general meeting of the Institution of Hospital Almoners at Westminster Palace Rooms, Victoria Street, referred to the loss the institution had suffered by the death of Miss Anne Cummins. She would always be remembered, he said, for her great work and her personality.

The annual report stated that 1935 had been a record year for appointments. Of the 88 recorded, 57 were new posts, or posts not previously held by a certificated almoner. The urgent need was for more good candidates for training.

The report and accounts were adopted, and it was announced that Miss Edminson (British Red Cross Clinic), Miss Godden (General Hospital, Bristol), Miss Marx (Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road), Miss Norris (St. Thomas's Hospital), Miss Nicholl (University College Hospital), and Miss Tregear (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge) had been elected to serve on the executive council for the current year.

Dr. J. Tate (Medical Officer of Health, Middlesex County Council) gave an address on the Work of Almoners.

Mr. Philip Inman, Managing Governor of Charing Cross Hospital, has been appointed Chairman in succession to the late Colonel George Verity. He has been connected with the hospital for 15 years and helped to raise £800,000.

The projected transfer of the Hospital, to a site in the Adelphi, was discussed at a recent meeting of the Council, which was considered an ideal one. We hear, however, that the King's Hospital Fund for London has turned down the suggestion, on the grounds that the site is too expensive on which to build a hospital. Charing Cross Hospital occupies a very valuable site, but has no room for expansion and is surrounded by ceaseless traffic.

To rebuild the Hospital facing the tidal river would, in our opinion, make for the well-being of the patients. No other consideration is of equal importance, not even finance.

The Ministry of Health have sanctioned the borrowing of £65,287 by Bradford City Council for the erection of a Nurses' Home at St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford. The Home will be one of the most up-to-date in the country, and will provide accommodation for a total staff of 254.

The Duchess of Marlborough is chairman of a ball to be held on Thursday, July 2nd, at the Dorchester in aid of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Sir H. Percy Shepherd, with the approval of his co-trustees, has made a further grant of £1,000 towards the reconstruction and extension (including a new nurses' home) of St. Mark's Hospital, City Road, E.C.1.

The Duke of York, as President of the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., presided at the Annual Court of Governors on March 17th, and afterwards made a tour of inspection, visiting many of the wards and various departments of the hospital. His Royal Highness talked to the Matron, Miss Bulman, and members of the nursing staff, and gave great pleasure to a number of the patients to whom he spoke individually.

St. George's Hospital will be the first general hospital to provide a psychiatric department large enough to allow of the adequate grading of cases, by establishing a 60-bed clinic. Other hospitals, as Lord Greville, the Treasurer, points out, have some facilities for work of this kind in their out-patients' departments, but St. George's is happy in having the opportunity of taking a lead in the establishment of a large in-patient clinic. It must prove of great

value both to the patients and also in connection with medical education.

IN THE ABSENCE OF THE NURSE.

How constantly injury to patients is reported "in the absence of the nurse," and now that judge and jury are beginning to realise that wards containing sick people should not be left unattended, and are awarding damages against hospitals which fail to provide reasonable care and supervision, especially where children are concerned, we may hope for improvement. In a recent case in the High Court £500 damages were given against the Chatham Joint Hospital Board, managers of St. William's Hospital, Rochester, for personal injuries.

Action for damages for personal injuries was brought by Mr. Charles Cyril Newnham, of Boundary Road, Chatham, on behalf of his son, Charles Wesley Newnham, aged seven, and himself.

The case for the plaintiffs was that on December 3rd, 1934, the infant plaintiff, who was suffering from scarlet fever, was received as a patient in the hospital for treatment, and on the following day was placed in a ward on the ground floor. During the late afternoon of that day the child was in a bed a few feet from a window, the lower part of which was open. In the absence of a nurse the child somehow fell out of the window and dropped a distance of about 17 ft. on to the ground below. As a result he suffered from shock and was confined to bed for three extra weeks. His forehead was badly disfigured and both feet were now flat, requiring special supports.

The child's father said that the defendants, their servants or agents, were negligent in leaving the boy unattended near the open window.

The defendants denied negligence, and alternatively pleaded that the child jumped out of the window in an endeavour to return home, taking the risk of the jump, and contributed by his own negligence to any harm which he received.

The jury found for the plaintiffs and awarded £500 damages, judgment for which was entered with costs.

Once more we affirm that to leave a ward, especially containing little children in a high state of fever, without the supervision of a nurse, is an absolutely indefensible system in ward management, for which hospital authorities should be made responsible.

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Mr. Charles E. N. Charrington, of West Byfleet, left £100 to his nurse Gladys Watkins "as an appreciation of her kind attention and care."

Mr. William Paterson Waddell, of Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., has bequeathed £500 to Nurse Elizabeth Merrick if still in his employ at the time of his death.

NURSING HOME AS GIFT.

The Hon. Constance Margaret Agar-Robartes, of Wimbledon, bequeathed the Grosvenor Nursing Home and the goodwill and effects to Helen Finlayson.

£200 each to Elizabeth H. Hall, of Surrey County Sanatorium, and £200 to Florence Mary Ware, of South Devon Hospital.

FORTUNES LEFT BY NURSES.

It is announced in the press that Mrs. Maud Lancelot Andrews, S.R.N., whose death has been so great a loss to her many friends, left £23,327. Thus two "Bart's" Nurses have within the past few months, between them, left nearly £100,000. Mrs. Lynn had no family, Mrs. Andrews leaves one son.

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