

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The King has given his patronage to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. The hospital has had the Sovereign as patron for 120 years.

The Duke of York has promised to attend a festival dinner in aid of the London Hospital which is to be held at Claridge's on Thursday, December 3rd.

The Duchess of York, on October 31st, opened an extension at the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, which provides accommodation for out-patients and a nurses' home.

The Lord-Lieutenant of the County, Lord Cottesloe, made the satisfactory announcement that the special appeal in connection with the Duchess's visit had resulted in £3,350 being given by the towns and villages in the area served by the hospital, in addition to individual subscriptions.

Lord Nuffield has presented £30,000 to the Acland Nursing Home at Oxford, to enable it to enlarge its accommodation and to instal the expensive equipment now necessary for the efficiency of such an institution.

The Acland Home was founded nearly 60 years ago in honour of Sir Henry Acland by the generosity of some of his friends, who provided a house, but no endowment.

At the Annual Dinner of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, at the Savoy Hotel, Professor James McIntosh, who presided, reviewed some of the chief events at the hospital and medical school during the past year, and Mr. E. W. Meyerstein, vice-president of the hospital, said he could assure students that the Council had heard about the need for a new playground and he thought they could safely feel that they were on the right road to getting it. Before very long they might also find that an additional scholarship for medical students and one for the nursing staff would be forthcoming.

Many of the Nursing and Medical Staff attended a special service for Doctors and Nurses held in the Parish Church, Croydon, on October 18th. The Bishop of Croydon, who gave the address, described the perfect health, physical, mental and moral, for every member of the community, which should be the ideal of all those who "labour to prevent suffering, and to forward God's purposes of love."

The usual St. Luke's Day service was held on the following day in the Hospital chapel at Croydon General Hospital, following tea in the Nurses' recreation room.

The service was conducted by the Bishop of Croydon, assisted by the Rev. J. Kinnear.

The Chairman, Sir Herbert Brown, was present, also Lady Brown, the House Governor and Mrs. Dams, and many "old nurses," and members of the Honorary Staff, and other friends.

The Bishop, in a helpful address, pointed out the great harm caused by fear to mind, body and soul, and he gave to all engaged in medical or nursing work the text from 2 Timothy, i. 7: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." These words, he said, should be a constant guide to each individual, as well as the foundation upon which the work of every hospital should be based.

Lord Radnor, patron of the hospital, has given £1,000; Mr. G. L. Mackeson, £500; and Lord Wakefield, £250, to a fund for extensions to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, an appeal for which is about to be launched.

REVIEW.

"THE PATIENT LOOKS AT THE HOSPITAL."*

"The Patient Looks at the Hospital," by Florence G. Fidler, might more properly be called "The Patient Looks at the Nurse," for the greater part is concerned with the doings (or misdoings) of the Nursing Profession, at which, we fear, the author looks with jaundiced eyes, for surely she must now and again have met a trained nurse with some redeeming qualities.

The book is dedicated "To the Subscribers to all Voluntary Hospitals." If these subscribers read it, and are influenced by what they read, its effect will be the withdrawal of subscriptions from institutions run on a system which she wholly condemns.

A keen supporter of the *Lancet* Commission on Nursing and its findings, it is interesting to learn that the secretary of the Commission has informed the author that "since it sat, very little has been done." Little importance has evidently been attached to the opinions of this self-appointed body by hospital governors.

The author apparently blames the voluntary hospitals for the standard of our national health. She writes: "A study of the Annual Year Book of the Health Organisation of the League of Nations, in which there are comparative health statistics of all countries within the League, is somewhat damaging to our national pride. The War found us a C3 nation, and it seems as if we are content to remain in that ignominious position. Nearly every nation is ahead of us. The pernicious voluntary hospital system only exists in English-speaking countries; in all others the State is responsible for the health of its people. . . . Our method of training nurses does not bear comparison with that of other countries. . . ."

"Even Russia," says the author, "is ahead of us in many ways, particularly in its nursing system and in the provision of night sanatoria. Some recent information has come from a visitor to a large Russian hospital which proves what can be done by an energetic Nurses' Trade Union. The visitor, herself a nurse, was somewhat shocked by the absence of etiquette and the lack of smartness, but nevertheless found much to admire. There are two grades of nurses—Medical Sister and Nurse—and the training takes three years. The sisters work six hours a day, and the nurses eight, both classes working for four days in succession, with the fifth day off. All can marry and have children; when a child is expected the mother is allowed four months' rest, two before the birth and two after. With these excellent conditions it is not surprising to hear that (in that hospital at least) there was never any shortage of nurses."

Everybody to their taste, but we doubt if those in this country experienced in hospital administration, whether as hospital governors or heads of Nursing Schools, will be impressed by the above description or desire to reorganise their nursing system on the methods of Moscow.

A reference must be made to the following remark, since Sir Victor Horsley, alas, is no longer with us to counter it with his characteristic vigour. "Some doctors, as the late Sir Victor Horsley, never hide their intense dislike of the trained nurse, with her perpetual mask, her reliance on formula, and her lack of pliability and imagination." Sir Victor Horsley, we know, did not suffer fools gladly. In his critical surgical work he needed the co-operation of efficient nurses. When he found them, no one was more appreciative of their work or kinder to them personally.

Further he identified himself completely with their campaign for State Registration, and spared time to attend their Conferences and to work for this reform.

* Robert Hale & Co., 102, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, 2/6 net.

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