

## CANADIAN CHILD WITH CLOSED EYES.

### VISIT TO ENGLAND ARRANGED.

After weeks of uncertainty, the little Canadian girl with closed eyelids has heard that she may come to London to have her eyes opened.

Her visit to this country could not be permitted unless someone over here agreed to look after her during the intervals between the necessary operations at the Royal Waterloo Hospital. The High Commissioner for Canada could do nothing in the matter.

An offer has now been received from a London couple whose son last year underwent similar operations at the same hospital and can now see perfectly. In gratitude, the father and mother have undertaken to act as foster parents to the Canadian child during her stay.

The girl, who is seven years of age, lives on a farm in a remote part of Saskatchewan. She will make the journey alone to London where the Royal Waterloo Hospital has already made arrangements to receive her.

In the course of the operations, portions of the child's thigh muscle will be removed and grafted to the muscles of the eyelids. As a result of this surgical feat, the lids will open and shut in a normal manner.

### MESSAGE BY THE BLIND.

#### Trainees at the National Institute.

Massage has proved so suitable a profession for the right type of blind man or woman that the National Institute for the Blind has been obliged to extend its work as a training centre. The whole of the massage department, including its school and evening clinic, is now housed in more commodious premises a short distance from the Institute's London headquarters in Great Portland Street. It has its own gymnasium and electrical section.

During the past year, says the National Institute's 68th Annual Report, 25 students were undergoing training at one time, and satisfactory results were obtained in the examinations of the Chartered Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics. Seven of the students who qualified have already started in private practice, one has secured a teaching appointment, and 11 have been given appointments in hospitals or clinics.

The evening clinic for hospital and other patients continued to increase in popularity, and during the 12 months 7,389 treatments were given by the senior students, supervised by a sighted Sister and a blind chartered masseur. Foam, brine and aeration baths are now available.

At the Alfred Eichholz Clinic, staffed by blind chartered masseurs and receiving paying patients recommended by their medical advisers, 4,195 treatments were administered in the course of the year. They included massage, Swedish remedial exercises, faradism, galvanism, sinusoidal current, ionisation, diathermy, high frequency, radiant heat, and infra-red radiation, and foam, brine, sulphur, aeration, paraffin wax, and Nauheim baths. A sighted Sister is in charge of the ultra-violet radiation.

The Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, has sent to all local authorities a communication drawing their attention to the importance of taking all practicable steps to prevent blindness and impaired eyesight. He draws attention to the powers of local authorities to make arrangements for assisting in the prevention of blindness.

## RETIREMENT OF MR. THOMAS HAYES.

We quote the following paragraphs from an appreciative article written by Lord Stanmore, the Treasurer of the Hospital, which appears in *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Gazette* for October.

"After 32 years as Clerk to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Mr. Thomas Hayes has retired from the office which he has held with such unique and conspicuous distinction . . .

"There can be no section of the Hospital's community that has not had cause to be grateful to Mr. Hayes, whether Treasurer and Almoners' Committee, medical staff, nurses, students or patients. The most recent, indeed, of the many memorials to his clerkship which he leaves behind is the new Convalescent Home for Nurses at Northwood. The Home was the generous gift of the Zachary Merton Trust, but it was Mr. Hayes' conception and it was on his earnest representation that the gift was made.

"And now Mr. Hayes has left the Clerk's Office. Through a long Hospital career he has shown how conspicuously he has possessed all those qualities which make the perfect Hospital Clerk—his sympathy, his loyalty, his tact and above all his conscientious devotion to the duties he was called on to perform. He will be remembered, too, by those who knew him well as one of the most generous of men, always willing and anxious to help in an unassuming way those less happily situated than himself. Fortunately for St. Bartholomew's he does not say a final farewell. The General Court of Governors in July last elected him a Governor and an Almoner of the Hospital, and the benefit of his wise counsel and ripe experience will, we hope, be at the service of the Hospital for years to come."

### SISTERS TO HAVE THEIR OWN DOOR-KEY.

When the Duke of Kent visits the Birmingham Hospitals Centre on October 14th, he will see, says the *Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*, one of the largest and most up-to-date places of healing on this side of the Atlantic rapidly nearing completion. The centre is to be opened next year.

Of the £1,000,000 needed for the first portion to be opened free of debt, £946,000 has been subscribed. This month an appeal is launched for the remaining £54,000.

Beds for 500 patients will be provided at the centre with accommodation for 360 nurses. There will also be a medical school for the University of Birmingham. The buildings occupy 30 acres of a 150-acre site adjacent to the University at Edgbaston.

To encourage the best type of girls into the nursing profession every comfort is being provided in the nurses' home. There will be a tastefully carpeted and furnished lounge. Sisters will have two-roomed flats and their own door-key. Nurses will have single rooms and a hairdressing room, laundry, and ironing rooms are being provided on each floor.

The Duke of Kent will arrive in Birmingham on October 13th to open the conference of the British Hospitals Contributory Schemes Association.

Birmingham wishes to attach a College of Nursing to its Hospitals Centre—there appears to be no valid reason why it should not do so.

### THE COMING ELECTION G.N.C.

Queen's Nurses announce that their Candidate at the coming election to serve on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales will be Miss J. P. Watt, Inspector, very well known for her forceful qualities, which are necessary as a useful representative of the Registered Nurses. In a leaflet being distributed it is emphasised that every vote will be needed to ensure her election, and the electorate is advised to "Vote for Queen's."

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