

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Queen has consented to continue her patronage of the City of Westminster Health Society's Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at 121, Marsham Street, S.W.1. As Duchess of York Her Majesty became patron of the society in 1931.

Queen Mary will open a new maternity home, ante-natal clinic and nurses' hostel at Stoughton, Guildford, on April 1.

Queen Mary has sent books for the Recreation Room of the new Nurses' Home at the Central London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn-road.

The Red Cross and Order of St. John Hospital Library, 48, Queen's Gardens, W.2, has been greatly helped during the past year by the gift of hundreds of books and magazines from Queen Mary, who since 1921 has never ceased to show her appreciation of the work by personal interest and constant contributions of literature.

Mr. Bernard Docker, chairman of Westminster Hospital, received by post recently two donations of £1,000 each towards the Coronation Wing of the new hospital. One came from "Aged 77" and the other from a City supporter of the hospital, who attended the recent Mansion House dinner, at which a proposal to name a section of the hospital the Coronation Wing was so warmly received.

We are pleased to note from the report of the House Committee to the Court of Governors of the London Hospital that the surplus of income over expenditure is about £4,000. Though ordinary income had slightly decreased, the hospital had again been fortunate in the matter of legacies, which amounted to over £48,000. Sir William Goschen, the chairman, said funds for the extension scheme were urgently required.

Univeristy College Hospital is appealing to motorists and motor-cyclists to dump all their old and worn-out tyres at the U.C.H. depot in Torrington Square, W.C.1.

Lady Howard de Walden desires it to be known that the First Salzburg Festival Concert in London will take place at the Queen's Hall, on Thursday, April 22nd, at 8.30 p.m.

This special visit of the Salzburg Orchestra (from the Mozarteum) will be a joy for music lovers. With it will sing Mariano Stabile, the great baritone of La Scala (who had a such a success at Salzburg under Toscanini last summer) and Audrey Mildmay, leading soprano of Glyndebourne.

The Festival will be held in aid of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, a national cause.

Tributes to the work of the Mental After-Care Association were paid by the Bishop of London, the Official Solicitor (Mr. A. Gilchrist), Dr. Isobel Wilson (a Commissioner of the Board of Control), and other speakers at the annual meeting of the Association held recently in the Hall of the Girdlers' Company.

Dr. Reginald Worth, who presided, said that 1936 was a year of record activity in the number of cases helped by the association. As a result of the application of new discoveries in psychology and a more human attitude towards mental illness, there had been a great advance in the campaign against mental disease.

SENILITY AS NEW DISEASE.

Lord Horder has always something original to advance from any platform from which he may speak. At a recent lecture at the Royal Institution, after he had recalled the Great Plague of the fourteenth century and other diseases of the past, he said: "If we go on as we are going, a man who gives this lecture in sixty years' time will probably lay stress on senility, which is on the increase, as being one of the most striking of the new diseases."

"Intelligence has recently been proved to be declining. If the decline continues, as it well may, the lecturer of the future will find two modern diseases to talk about—both of them more deadly than any I have mentioned this evening."

Saying that doctors welcomed the attempt by the State to organise national physique, Lord Horder commented: "The cynic tells us that only the politician with his ear to the ground knows why this is being done. But that need not trouble us. The hound holds his tail quite as high on a false scent as on the real one."

"Later we might do something to organise the national mind, and so get back some of the zest for living."

Those of us who have lived through time since the middle of the last century, wonder why the keen mental energy which has kept us young is apparently less evident in succeeding generations. A zest for living is by no means the same thing as the zest for movement.

Modern Illnesses.

Of other modern illnesses Lord Horder said:—

Influenza: "Still the great outstanding plague with which medicine has to contend."

Tuberculosis: "It looks as though Bunyan's 'Captain of the Men of Death' will be overcome in another generation. Its decrease in the past 30 years is perhaps the greatest achievement in the control in infectious disease in this generation."

Neurasthenia: "One of our major problems in medicine to-day, both as regards causes and treatment."

HEALING WORK OF BLIND MASSEURS.

In the ranks of the blind to-day are some hundreds of men and women who, though heavily handicapped themselves, are yet able to cure the ills of many seeing people. They are the trained masseurs.

Massage is perhaps the only walk of life where blindness can become a definite asset. Working in a darkness that eliminates all distraction of vision, the blind expert attains concentration and a sensitiveness of touch that place him on the highest level of his calling.

Within recent years, over two hundred sightless men and women have been trained at the Massage School of the National Institute for the Blind. Some start private practice at home or in the colonies, or take up hospital appointments. Others join the staff of the Eichholz Clinic, which is attached to the National Institute, where diathermy, remedial exercises, and all forms of physical treatment are administered by these highly qualified people.

It takes two years of intensive training for a blind person to become a qualified masseur, and the candidates are carefully selected. They must have good health and education and that intangible quality known as personality. Their course includes anatomy, physiology, pathology, and periods of clinical experience at leading hospitals.

One of the heaviest burdens imposed by blindness is the sense of dependence on others. Massage is a profession by which those who have lost their sight can gain not only independence but also the satisfying knowledge that they are contributing to the welfare of their fellows.

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