

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

The Duke of Kent will preside and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs will be present at a dinner which is being held at the Mansion House on May 25th to open the London Hospital Bi-centenary Appeal.

The London Hospital is a great national asset, and owing to its extensive benefactions needs, and should receive, national support. It is to be hoped that the Bi-centenary Appeal will be very generously supported. A most distinguished company have accepted invitations to be present at the Mansion House.

Speaking as Chairman of the Annual General Meeting of the Committee of Management of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, Lord Winterton revealed some interesting facts about the interior working of one of London's most important special hospitals.

During 1937 the number of In-Patients was 1,386, a slight decrease compared with 1936. The number of beds in daily occupation at the Hospital averaged 66.6, while the average length of stay of each patient was $17\frac{1}{2}$ days. The total cost of each In-Patient was £10 17s. 0d. In the Out-Patients' Department the number of new patients during 1937 was 2,811 and these, together with the old patients, made a total of 7,809 attendances. The total cost of each Out-Patient was 9s. 9d.

The Hospital for Women, Lord Winterton said, prided itself on the standard of catering for patients and staff. During 1937, 20,000 eggs were used, costing £121; and 7,172 gallons of milk were consumed, costing £510.

The financial position of the Hospital was extremely serious, as during last year expenditure exceeded income by £2,339. This was due almost entirely to the fact that income from legacies fell from £2,920 in 1936 to £207 in 1937, and there was no indication that legacies in 1938 would be more than during last year. Three thousand pounds income was therefore required to balance the budget for 1938, apart from £6,000 required to wipe off the bank overdraft.

Lord Winterton concluded his speech by thanking the Honorary Medical Staff for the care and skill which they bestowed upon the patients, the Matron and Nursing Staff for their efficient organisation of a Sale of Work in November the proceeds of which were £137, and the Officers, Nursing and Household Staffs for their work during the year.

One of the finest projects for hospital organisation which is in process of realisation is the great Hospitals Centre at Edgbaston, of which the King, accompanied by the Queen, will open the first section when they visit Birmingham on July 14th next. Their Majesties will attend a performance of a wonderful historical pageant in the grounds of Aston Hall, which will be an outstanding event in the centenary of the grant to Birmingham of its charter of incorporation and is being produced with extraordinary diligence and accuracy by Miss Gwen Lally, and some 8,000 men, women and children have been enrolled as performers.

The Hospitals Centre which the King will open is the first of its kind to be established in Great Britain, and is planned to effect a complete co-ordination of the essentials of modern medical and nursing practice for all classes of the community. The part to be opened comprises 500 beds, five general and five special operating theatres, and medical school buildings for the University of Birmingham. The site of the centre covers an area of more than 30 acres and is estimated to cost £1,250,000.

The Duke of Gloucester has become Patron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

AS IT SHOULD BE.

We are indebted to Miss R. Darroch, secretary of The Liverpool Royal Infirmary, for the Order of Service "on the occasion of the Annual Celebration of the Honour of Florence Nightingale and the Vocation of Nursing," held in Liverpool Cathedral on Sunday, May 8th, which she describes as "a very impressive and memorable service at which 100 members of the nursing profession attended in uniform," representing all the voluntary, municipal and special hospitals of Liverpool, in honour of Florence Nightingale's birthday and their vocation.

The service was attended in state by the Lord and Lady Mayoress—the Lady Mayoress being escorted to her seat by Miss Mary Jones, the Matron of the Royal Infirmary.

The organist played an intermezzo before the service, and the hymn, sung while the civic party, choir and uniformed nurses entered in procession, was "Jerusalem the Golden."

Service was taken by the Chancellor, Canon J. S. Bezzant.

Among the prayers were one for the King and another "for those who are, or shall be, called into the honourable vocation of nursing." The special hymn "in praise for Florence Nightingale," was "For All The Saints." The lesson was read by Mr. R. H. Armstrong, chairman of the Royal Liverpool United Hospital.

The Dean, Dr. F. W. Dwelly, in his sermon, urged all to "walk worthily of their vocations." Matrons, sisters and nurses touched life at its most sacred moments. They did well to hold a Cathedral service once a year to honour those who took a simple delight in what was often a hum-drum and apparently thankless duty. The patience to move among the sick and sorrowful, and the faith that hoped on when others thought hope had gone—those were the marks of worthiness. The Dean urged his hearers to let the frailty of things pass by; not to be disturbed, but to go quietly on with their work in their own way and maintain the tradition which nurses had long set up.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT TO LORD HORDER.

Lord Horder was presented on May 11th with a portrait of himself at a meeting in the Great Hall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C. The portrait was later handed to the Treasurer of the hospital, Mr. George Ailwen, to be hung in the Great Hall. Lord Stanmore, a former Treasurer of the hospital, speaking on behalf of 380 subscribers, said that Lord Horder had not only been of the greatest service to St. Bartholomew's in his professional capacity, but a year ago by a broadcast appeal he had added to the number of its supporters. He was the first St. Bartholomew's man to gain the high distinction of a peerage.

No member of the medical staff was ever a greater favourite with generations of Barts' nurses.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

- "The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
That stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king,
But lived and died a scrubby thing.
- "Good timber does not grow in ease;
The stronger wind the tougher trees,
The farther sky the greater length,
The more the storm the more the strength,
By sun and cold, by rain and snows,
In tree or man good timber grows."

Anonymous.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)