

QUEEN MARY AND THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

THE BICENTENARY APPEAL.

Nurses who have trained or worked in the London Hospital hold it in enduring affection. The poverty and suffering of the people in the surrounding districts in the

stream of suffering people still crowd the wards. It is now nearly two hundred years since this great city of healing was founded with a capital of £100. It has grown to be the largest voluntary hospital in England, and owes its latter-day growth and much of its efficiency to the late Chairman, Lord Knutsford—who literally gave the best years of his life to its expansion and equipment.

Sir William Goschen, the present Chairman, reminds us that in 1940 the London Hospital will celebrate its bicentenary and an appeal for £325,100 was inaugurated at a recent dinner at the Mansion House, presided over by the Duke of Kent, at which he announced amid cheers that Her Majesty Queen Mary, who is President of the Hospital, had asked him to give a cheque for 200 guineas to the Chairman as a mark of her interest in the Appeal.

Sir William Goschen, in returning thanks, stated that including a gift of £10,000 from Lord Nuffield, £46,000 had already been received. At the quarterly Court of Governors, held recently at the hospital, the annual report presented gave details of the bicentenary appeal of the £325,100 required, £60,000 was for quinquennial maintenance, the balance, £265,100, was the estimated cost of essential improvements and schemes of reconstruction. The policy of the committee was not to increase the bed accommodation of the hospital to any appreciable extent—as it was, the London was the largest voluntary hospital in England—but their medical and surgical staff had most carefully reviewed the situation in the light of the rapid advances of medical and surgical science, and the committee was convinced that the schemes advocated were absolutely necessary and must be carried out if the patients were to receive the best possible treatment, if research was to be given every encouragement and assistance, and if the training of doctors and nurses was to be maintained at the highest level.

The hospital was not obsolete, but it was to prevent any falling behind in the march of progress that the committee was determined to do its utmost to raise the funds necessary to carry out the proposals. In this it was receiving the most valuable assistance and co-operation from every member of the medical and surgical staff.

The main features of the recommendations are:—Building and equipping a modern X-ray department. Remodelling the operating theatres. The establishment of a fracture clinic. Extension of the laboratories. New ear, nose, and throat wards. Improvements to the children's wards. Adequate accommodation for septic cases. A new dental department. An extension of the nurses' home.

It had been the endeavour of the committee to balance the ordinary income and expenditure of the hospital, and over the period of the past seven years



[Photograph]

[Soper]

HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY.

President of the London Hospital, who has contributed 200 guineas in support of the bicentenary Appeal.

past, endured with such courage, endeared them to their nurses. Somehow the long hours of duty brought a glowing reward, it was all so worth while to see smiles instead of tears. Social conditions in the East End have, of course, improved of late years, but an ever-flowing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)