

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Blue Rose Day, held in aid of the funds of the British Empire Cancer Campaign on June 6th throughout the Metropolitan area and the City of London, raised £8,431 2s. 11d., an increase of £610 0s. 4d. over last year. The expenses, which included the cost of the blue roses made by ex-Service men, amounted to £830 14s. 8½d.

The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, on one day received three anonymous gifts: £31 10s. from someone whose birthday falls on August 1st; £2,000 "from a friend"; and £1,000 from a "Provincial Friend," who recently visited the Hospital.

These sums have been received towards paying off the hospital's building debt of over £300,000.

A statement issued by Guy's Hospital said that the institution owes £4,000 to Southwark Borough Council for rates, and that most of the other London teaching hospitals are in similar difficulties.

The situation had not suddenly arisen. Guy's had been in arrears with rates for a considerable time, and the special funds which had been used to meet the deficit on maintenance were exhausted. The governors, however, had been averse to making this an excuse for what might be termed a stunt appeal to the public. They had preferred that the work of the hospital itself should be the basis of appeals for help.

The large London teaching hospitals had now approached the Minister of Health to discuss their financial position in relation to their teaching functions. Discussions with the Minister had been delayed by the organising of emergency medical services in case of war. The principal reason for the difficulties of the teaching hospitals was that the teaching added to the cost of maintenance. Besides this, Guy's, in common with other national hospitals, drew patients from a wide area because of its special facilities, and this type of patient was often unable to make the same proportionate contribution to the cost of treatment as would normally be obtained by an outlying hospital.

The new treatment block at the country branch of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, was recently opened by Mrs. Walter Elliot, wife of the Minister of Health. The new block includes a swimming bath and rooms for massage, dental, and artificial light treatment. Mr. L. Fleischmann, chairman of the hospital, said that the treatment block was urgently needed, as the accommodation for light treatment and remedial exercises had been quite inadequate. Over 12,800 treatments were given last year, and at least twice as many would be given in the new buildings. The swimming pool, so beneficial for the treatment of infantile paralysis, was provided through the generosity of the trustees of Mr. Cabel Diploch, who gave £5,000 for that purpose. After the opening ceremony, Mrs. Elliot presented Nurse Cowan with the Barnet Memorial Medal awarded to the best nurse of the year, which was apparently a popular selection for the honour.

A gift of £60,000 was made recently by Mr. Joseph Rank to the general endowment fund of the Royal Infirmary at Hull, according to the annual report of the Board of Management. The gift was made in the form of 3½ per cent. War Stock, and was sent through the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust, founded at Hull a few years ago to assist deserving people in necessitous circumstances. A ward at the Sutton branch of the infirmary has been named after Mr. Rank.

Norsted Manor estate, Orpington, is to be bought by Kent County Council for £19,000 as a site for a sanatorium.

THE PASSING BELL.

We regret to record the death on July 14th, 1939, of Miss Kathleen Hilda Mary Holmes, R.R.C., late Sister Q.A.I.M.N.S.

Miss Holmes was trained at St. George's Hospital, London, and joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service on February 12th, 1908, and was promoted Sister on May 18th, 1917. On January 1st, 1917, she received the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross for her services, and retired on September 14th, 1925, after 17½ years' service.

Her colleagues at the War Office extend sincerest sympathy to her relatives in their bereavement.

"A PRICELESS PRIVILEGE."

At the recent annual meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Aberdeen, it was moved by the Brighton branch "that the entire expenses of the central and local emergency committees should be borne by the Government." Sir Kaye Le Fleming, in the chair, replied that the Government was already contributing substantially, but this work was the association's contribution to the public welfare, and for it they obtained the priceless privilege of the medical profession controlling its own output in time of emergency; that was worth paying for.

We warmly approve this sentiment. Would that Sir Kaye Le Fleming had claimed this "priceless privilege" for the Nursing profession, when reversing the policy of the B.M.A. on the "Assistant Nurse" question. In its memorandum to the Inter-Departmental Committee, it opposed statutory privileges for untrained and semi-trained nurses—but alas! reversed this just policy after the issue of the Interim Report. No one stands to suffer greater risks than the medical profession by the employment in private practice of dangerously ignorant women *guaranteed* by the State as nurses of the sick.

A PEOPLE'S FIGHT FOR LIFE.

The Renaissance was the great upswing from the dark ages towards art, literature, beauty in every form. It spread rapidly throughout Europe because the people were ready for it; it was the spirit of the age. The French Revolution was the beginning of a world-wide fight of the masses for political freedom in which our own young nation played its gallant part. The world movement toward beauty of form and expression seems to have levelled out. The world movement for freedom is alive only in isolated nations. But I believe that to-day we see the first faint stirrings of a world movement for health, a people's fight for life, for freedom from disease, and for an equal opportunity to be born well and to live well.

Science has shown the way. Not only by the fruits of its labour, which has saved men's lives, saved them suffering and maintained their physical and mental fitness, but also through the orderliness of mind, the clarity of vision, and the willingness to sacrifice for truth (which are the fundamentals of the scientific spirit), it is my firm belief that man may hope to raise himself enough in the human scale to master his own machines and to affirm his own destiny, rather than become the passive instrument of self-designated supermen.—*Thomas Parran: Public Health Reports, U.S. Public Health Service.*

LEGACIES TO NURSES.

Mr. Jeremiah Colman, of Hove, left £500 to his nurse, Miss Mabel Lydia Smart.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)