

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

HOSPITALS DAY.

Her Majesty the Queen is Patron of Hospitals Day, first introduced in 1937, to do away with the inconvenience of successive separate Flag Days, and to allow the hospitals to join forces in one annual united effort.

Successful from the very start, Hospitals Day has yielded increasingly large sums from year to year. Public opinion has shown itself warmly in favour of the scheme and the participating hospitals have benefited to a greater extent than in the days of independent street collections.

Last Year's Results.

The combined collections for 1939 amounted to £74,243 7s. 9d. This included the October Flag Day, which, as mentioned later in this report, was organised in co-operation with the Red Cross Fund, when the Hospitals concerned retained only a small share of the amounts they themselves collected. This notable total—nearly three times the sum raised through 77 separate Flag Days in 1936 and well in advance of both the 1937 and 1938 collections, which amounted to £32,569 11s. 10d. and £44,214 15s. 2d. respectively.

The warm interest of Her Majesty the Queen in the work has been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to all concerned and has contributed much to this record of success.

The splendid response to the call for collectors was another notable feature of the year. Those who so kindly gave their services in this way numbered 26,313 in May and nearly 30,000 in October.

The dates selected for Hospitals Day this year are May 7th and October 8th.

The year ahead promises to be a difficult year for the Hospitals. They must care for the dependents of the men away on Active Service and be ready to succour the civilian population in the event of Air Raids—all this in addition to their already heavy burdens. Their need is urgent and vital—please help them in any and every way you can!

A NEW HOME HOSPITAL.

H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, S.R.N., has been busy preparing the Private Nursing Home at 23, Bentinck Street, W.1, which is to be opened on May 14th, and which will be under her direct supervision as Matron. The Home has been very tastefully decorated and every detail for the comfort of the patients has been thought out by the Princess. The operating theatre is scientifically perfect—an asset which will be greatly appreciated by surgeons and nurses.

No nursing work is more exacting than the supervision of a private hospital; doctors, patients, their relations and friends, and the nursing staff need endless consideration. So her friends will wish Princess Arthur all the health and strength possible for her onerous task.

MORE HOSPITAL BEDS FOR MOTHERS.

A further 30 beds, which will be taken from the 400 reserved for war emergency purposes under the Government scheme, are to be provided for maternity cases at North Middlesex County Hospital.

The 60 beds which have been reserved for mothers have proved inadequate.

TYPHOID CLAIMS.

The Finance Committee of Croydon Borough Council are recommending that the Ministry of Health should be asked for sanction to borrow £17,356 more for claims arising from the typhoid epidemic of 1937.

CASUALTY HOSPITALS.

The following timely article on Casualty Hospitals appeared recently in *The Times* :—

"Uneasiness is being caused by reports that the equipment of some of the civilian casualty hospitals which are part of the machinery of home defence is still incomplete and inadequate. These hospitals, say the reports, have not been furnished with the appliances necessary for the treatment of such severe conditions as pre-operative and post-operative shock. There are no hot-air cradles, no blood-transfusion bottles, and no separate heating arrangements for operating theatres and wards. Instruments needed in severe operations are frequently lacking, so that such operations could not safely be undertaken. Nor has sufficient consideration been given to the possible necessity of expanding the hospitals in order to deal with an unexpectedly large number of cases. These alleged deficiencies have been justified on the ground that a casualty hospital is designed to give immediate treatment and ought to serve chiefly as a clearing house. The same justification was advanced in the Four Years' War, but was heavily discounted by experience. It was found then that safety lay in the completeness of the available equipment and that lack of such equipment was inevitably paid for in a diminished standard of performance.

"The truth is that an operation requires exactly the same instruments at a casualty hospital as are required at the base or anywhere else. Indeed the chief difference between 'front' and 'base' in this respect is that the casualty hospital has to treat those patients who are too ill to be sent on. The surgical care needed by such patients is likely to be of an extensive and highly specialised kind. Thus the casualty hospital has two separate, distinct, and equally important functions. It is a clearing house; but it is also a place of treatment where injuries of the gravest kind must be dealt with, and where patients whose condition forbids movement must receive the best possible treatment. If this second function of casualty hospitals is overlooked their value is likely to be seriously compromised. Equipment ought to be complete in every respect. The hospital must be ready to deal with wounds of any part of the body at moments when a great many wounds may need treatment simultaneously. Its resources ought to be more extensive and more varied than those even of 'special' hospitals in less dangerous areas."

We know of many lives saved by prompt and expert treatment at casualty hospitals in the last war.

R.A.F. COMMISSIONS FOR MEDICAL WOMEN.

We are glad to note that the R.A.F. has granted commissions to medical women.

The first three have been given rank equivalent to flying-officers and will receive the same pay.

They are Miss E. D. Fenwick, who practised in St. John's Wood; Miss Annie D. M. Adams, formerly house surgeon at Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone; and Miss W. H. Redmond. They are qualified surgeons.

At first their duties will be to look after the health of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, the members of which, according to the regulations, must be examined regularly. There is no medical branch of the W.A.A.F.

"Later it is possible that they may assist at R.A.F. hospitals. They will wear W.A.A.F. uniform and the medical badge of the R.A.F."

The appointment of women doctors by the R.A.F. will allow more medical officers to be sent to operational commands overseas.

Medical women did excellent work in the last war, and no doubt their services will be appreciated as soon as put into operation.

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