

had been fully justified by the results of the first eight months.

"In setting up this service at the request of the Voluntary Hospitals Committee for London," the Duke went on, "we had several objects in view. We have in London so many hospitals that girls who wish to take up nursing are apt to be bewildered; they may apply to hospitals with long waiting lists and become discouraged, while there may be other hospitals which would be very glad to accept them. We want to avoid this, and especially just now when trained nurses are so essential to the country. We know that we can rely on the hospitals to co-operate by keeping us informed of their needs, and many of them are already passing on to the centre for guidance and advice candidates for whom they have no immediate vacancy. We are acting as a public relations service for nursing, and the department has already dealt with some 2,000 inquiries with very useful results."

In expressing sympathy with the hospitals which had suffered so severely from air raids, the Duke said that the heroism and devotion of the medical, lay, and nursing staffs had profoundly stirred public feeling.

Sir Edward Peacock, the treasurer, said that of the £380,000 to be distributed this year £71,000 related to 1939. They were making the ordinary distribution of £300,000, the District Nursing of £2,000, and £7,000 in special grants, a total of £309,000 in respect of 1940. The estimates showed a net income of £247,000. Last year, £50,000 was taken from reserves, and this year the amount would probably be £138,000.

Owing to a decrease in receipts from legacies the current income had fallen short of the amount required for the ordinary annual distributions and the special services, though revenue from sources other than legacies had been keeping up very well.

Sir Alan Anderson proposed a vote of thanks to the Duke of Kent, and this was seconded by Lord Mildmay of Flete.

The Fund is to be congratulated on the very satisfactory report, considering the effects of war.

HALIFAX ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Ante-Natal Clinic Completed.

When Sir Enoch Hill, J.P., retired from the general managership of the Halifax Building Society after 35 years' service, a national testimonial fund of £5,800 was raised. At Sir Enoch's request the money was used to benefit a number of charities and educational and other institutions.

A sum of £2,000 was given to the Royal Halifax Infirmary—£1,000 for the endowment of a bed and £1,000 to provide an ante-natal clinic.

The additions to the infirmary have now been made, and recently Sir Enoch and Lady Hill paid a formal visit of inspection. At the close of their visit Lady Hill was presented, on behalf of the architects, with a gold fountain pen and pencil as a memento of the occasion.

These items of good news concerning the Royal Halifax Infirmary interests us greatly.

When we entered for training the Children's Hospital at Nottingham, in the year 1878, we found Nurse Swift in charge of the girls' ward. Trained at Halifax, she was a fine example to pupils, and we have never forgotten her devotion to her little charges, her skill and pride in imparting knowledge—a rare virtue in those days.

BOY'S SUFFERING.

A nurse named Mary Lawson, of Hove, was recently fined £10 and ordered to pay £15 towards the costs, or six weeks' imprisonment, for causing suffering to a boy ill with scabies. He was treated for extensive burns and shock from use of a disinfectant, against which he had protested as applied by Nurse Lawson.

THE WAR.

MOTHER AND CHILD.

Over our England now the powerful wings
Of War, the vampire that can suck the blood
Of radiant children, have flown all too near,
The air is heavy with a presaged gloom.
Young mothers hold their babies to their breasts:
Love must be greater still, and let them go.
We older mothers look into the eyes,
Calm, unafraid, of grown-up sons, and know
That we are putting to our trembling lips
The cup of sacrificial agony.
If we can give the ones who mean to us
The core of life, the sun, the moon, the stars,
Surely it is not much to ask that you
Should send your child to safety, as we send
Our sons to danger and perchance to death.
Delay no longer. Love means sacrifice.
The accolade of motherhood is ours,
The sword that touched us stabs us to the heart.

HILDA M. TREVELYAN-THOMSON.

Bombing of Hospitals.

Nearly every day news comes of the barbarous bombing of Hospitals—and thereby the deaths of helpless sick people—and their nurses. Reports invariably make known of the heroism of all grades of hospital workers, who risk and often lose their lives, so that their charges may be saved.

In London how sad that the beautiful up-to-date new Westminster Hospital should have been struck.

The heroism of members of the staff, from surgeons to maid-servants, when high-explosive and incendiary bombs recently struck the Hospital was referred to at the quarterly meeting of the Governors, by Mr. Charles M. Power, secretary to the hospital.

The staff, he said, extinguished not only incendiary bombs, which fell on the buildings, but also many in the streets and neighbouring gardens.

Many more hospitals have been injured or destroyed by enemy action since our last issue. That exceedingly valuable institution for East End Sick Children—Princess Elizabeth of York Hospital at Shadwell—has been heavily bombed; work has become impossible, so financial support is needed to house the patients in the country. This has been done in part, and Mr. Hill Child, in an appeal in *The Times*, invites offers of accommodation in Hertfordshire for the sick children from the dock district, which is a ceaseless danger zone.

In the course of his tour the King saw the ruins of a fifteenth-century hospital which was once the earliest Poor Law institution in the kingdom. Beside it was one of the finest of the city's churches, also gutted by fire. He seemed particularly impressed by the vista of ruin presented from where there had stood, for hundreds of years, the Old Dutch House, one of the best-known features of the city. Whole blocks of shops had been reduced to a tangled mass of steel girders and rubble.

His Majesty the King had a most enthusiastic reception when he visited Bristol after its attempted demolition. His Majesty talked to survivors who had been buried in wreckage, and when liberated with difficulty from under tons of wreckage, helped to save others. The King was completely mobbed when he left his car, the people shouting "We're not down-hearted—God bless your Majesty." Hospitals suffered, and patients were wonderfully rescued.

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