

HOSPITALS FLAG DAY.

Her Majesty the Queen sent a message to the meeting of the London Hospitals Flag Day, held at the Mansion House on April 28th, in which she stated that it was a great satisfaction to her as patron of the Hospitals Day to learn that the collections in 1943, £83,000, exceeded those of any previous year.

The voluntary hospitals, she added, had a secure place in the warm hearts of the people of this country, and to all those who worked in them, or supported them by their generosity, she sent her good wishes and thanks. The scheme for a Combined Hospitals Day in London came into operation in Coronation year, and, after seven years, the figures for 1943 showed a total collected of £83,000. During the seven years the combined Street Collections Committee have been operating the total amount collected has been £408,000. The Queen has taken a great interest

HOSPITALS AND THE WHITE PAPER.

"NO INTENTION OF INJURING VOLUNTARY SYSTEM."

The Minister of Health, Mr. Henry Willink, speaking recently at a Hospitals Day meeting at the Mansion House, congratulated the London Hospitals Street Collections Committee on its record total of £83,000 last year.

Mr. Willink said that the Government not only had no intention of destroying the voluntary hospital system; it had put forward proposals which in its view would have the very opposite effect. Under the National Health Service proposals, voluntary hospitals would be able to preserve their character and their self-government while at the same time taking the fullest part in providing the service, in planning the service, and in guiding the development of the service as a whole.

"Just as the Government has no intention of injuring



Photo

[Graphic Photo Union.]

THE QUEEN TAKES PART IN LONDON HOSPITALS FLAG DAY.

in the movement, and during a tour of the three main Hospitals Flag Day depots on April 28th, saw helpers bringing in their tins and collecting supplies of flags to sell. Nurses took an active part in the ceremonies, forming guards of honour. At the Mansion House, Her Majesty was received by the Lord Mayor and members of the Central Committee were presented. At all the three depots which she visited she spoke to the organisers and helpers and assured them of her warm interest in the voluntary hospitals; and those of us who have worked in them and realised their beneficence, sincerely hope that the National Health system, now under discussion, in the White Paper, will retain the freedom of the voluntary hospital system.

For the sake of the status of Nursing Schools it is imperative that they should be attached to hospitals free from local trade pressure, and which are pushing the costly scheme for the insufficient training of Assistant Nurses.

This is a serious matter, which the governors of our historic and efficient general hospitals must take determined action in considering the White Paper for the organisation of a National Health Scheme.

the voluntary hospitals, in the same way it has no desire to discourage in any way the spirit of benevolence and voluntary service which inspires the voluntary system. The White Paper therefore makes it perfectly clear that the Government's financial proposals are designed to leave room for part of the cost of the hospital service to be met from voluntary contributions, and thus to preserve a sphere for the operation of that good will and service which have always been the mainstay of the movement. In that event there will be a place for the activity of those who have contributed to the success of the London Hospitals Street Collections.

"If this is true of the position as it would be if the Government's proposals had become law, it is all the more true of the position as it exists to-day. It is said that some people have taken the White Paper as a signal for discontinuing their financial support for voluntary hospitals, and even for ceasing to be members of contributory schemes. It is to be hoped that this is not really happening, not only in the interest of the hospitals but also in the interest of the patients themselves if they are

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