

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has issued under date February 5th, 1897, an important statement, which has already been published at length in the daily papers. The statement opens as follows:

"Having ascertained from the Queen that she has no wish to express a preference for any one of the many proposals loyally suggested for commemorating, nationally or locally, the sixtieth year of her reign, I feel at liberty to bring to the notice of the inhabitants of the metropolis a project lying very near my heart, its object being to attach the sentiment of gratitude for the blessings which the country has enjoyed during the last sixty years to a scheme of permanent beneficence. The finances of the hospitals of London have long been a source of anxiety and solicitude. An analysis furnished me of the audited statements of account for the year 1895 of 122 metropolitan hospitals and convalescent homes shows a deficiency of £70,000 in the ordinary receipts as compared with the ordinary expenditure, while, if we limit the figures to institutions which failed to meet their outgoings, the deficiency is increased to £102,500. In considering how this may be remedied, I have been struck by the statement, the truth of which is placed beyond doubt, that the contributors to the funds of our hospitals number less than one in a hundred of the population. It appears to me that in this fact we may find at once an explanation of present indigence and the best hope of its relief. It is necessary to enlarge the area from which annual subscriptions are gathered. If we divide the population of the metropolitan district into two portions and agree that one moiety is unable to contribute anything, there still remain three millions of persons representing, say, 500,000 households. Of these, 450,000 households at least, so far as can be ascertained, do not contribute anything towards the support of hospitals. If we again assume that one-half are unwilling or unable to acknowledge either privilege or duty in this matter, an average annual subscription of no more than 10s. each from the remainder will suffice. The efforts of individual institutions, competing with one another, have not availed to enlist a large body of subscribers. I do not believe that this arises from any real indifference, but partly from the difficulty of choosing an object of interest among so many, partly from the lack of any definite opportunity for giving annual subscriptions to the cause as a whole, and partly from the feeling that small sums are not worth contributing. I am, however, confident that a combined appeal on behalf of the hospitals of London, setting forth their work in its magnitude and importance, will prove irresistible."

In dealing with the general purpose and policy of the scheme the Prince of Wales writes:

"Public opinion has shown itself upon more than one occasion, and I think wisely, in favour of the maintenance of the voluntary system for support of our hospitals, combined with an adequate system of representation of the body of subscribers in their control and management. It is obvious, however, that if these institutions are to be saved from State or parochial aid, their financial condition must be secured. We must recall the fact that, apart from the purely philanthropic work carried on in relief of our sick poor, we look to the voluntary hospitals for the means of medical education and the advancement of medical science. Our hope is that by the aid of this Commemoration Fund we may be enabled to secure for these necessary institutions sufficient and permanent support."

The Prince states that he proposes to invite subscriptions of 1s. a year and upwards from all classes for "the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's reign." An endeavour will be made to secure from £100,000 to £150,000 from those who have not hitherto regularly contributed.

With regard to the distribution of the fund the Prince proposes for the first year to rely upon the co-operation of the Distribution Committee of the Hospital Sunday Fund, but he adds that in the future it may be desirable to seek the assistance of representatives chosen by the hospitals. In the collection and administration of the fund he has associated with himself a General Council consisting of representative

men, and including the President of the Royal Society (Lord Lister), the President of the Royal College of Physicians (Dr. Wilks), and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons (Sir William MacCormac). The Treasurer is Lord Rothschild, New Court, E.C., to whom or to the Honorary Secretaries of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London, the Bank of England, London, E.C., subscriptions may be sent.

The Honorary Secretaries ask that help may be given in any of the following forms:

1. Annual subscriptions for the life of the subscriber, or at least "until further notice," or
2. Subscriptions for a limited term of years, or
3. Sums representing subscriptions compounded at 4 per cent., or at the rate of £25 in a single payment in lieu of an annual subscription of £1, or
4. Donations, the application of which the donors may leave to the discretion of the council of the fund.

The *Daily Telegraph* immediately opened a subscription list, which it calls the Shilling Branch, and the response was at once very gratifying. The total number of shillings announced as received up to Thursday morning, February 11th, was 155,109.

LITERARY NOTES.

MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO. have in the press a work entitled *Memories and Ideals*, by the late Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson.

The *Echo Médical du Nord* is the title of a new journal recently established by a group of professors in the Medical Faculty of Lille. The editor is Dr. Combemale.

Dr. Thomas L. Stedman, of New York, has written a textbook of modern Greek, which is published by Messrs. Harper and Brothers. It is entitled *Modern Greek Mastery*, and is described as "a short road to ancient Greek." It may possibly be intended as a step in furtherance of the project initiated by Dr. Achilles Rose, of New York, of getting modern Greek accepted as the universal language of science.

A series of popular textbooks on nursing will shortly be issued by The Scientific Press under the title of the "Burdett Series." The first of the series, entitled *Hints on District Nursing*, written by Miss Amy Hughes, Superintendent of Nurses, Bolton Union Workhouse, will be published immediately. These handbooks will be produced in a handy pocket size, clearly printed and bound in cloth.

Under the title of *A Short Practice of Midwifery* Messrs. J. and A. Churchill will shortly issue a handbook embodying a detailed account of the treatment pursued in the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. The author is Dr. Henry Jellett, Assistant Master of the hospital. Dr. Smyly, late Master, contributes a preface, and an appendix is given containing the statistics of the hospital for the past seven years. The work will be illustrated with over forty figures.

Our cousins across the Atlantic appear to have had special and not altogether trustworthy information on the subject of Lord Lister's title. The January number of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is "pleased to chronicle the fact that Sir Joseph Lister was created Lord Kinnear on December 31st." The *New York Medical Record* of January 30th, says: "Sir Joseph Lister, now Lord Kinnear, is not the first medical man to be raised to the peerage, but he is the first to be so honoured for medical achievements. Lord Playfair, a qualified physician, was made a peer for political reasons solely." Lord Playfair will, we imagine, be as much interested to hear of his medical qualification as Lord Lister will be to learn his new title from America.

There is as usual at this time of the year the appearance of a batch of new medical journals to chronicle. Two in the Polish language have recently begun to appear in Warsaw; they are entitled respectively *Krytyka Lekarska*, which is under the editorship of Dr. Kramschtik, and *Andrologia i Syflografia*, edited by Dr. Miszewitz. The *Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery* is the name of a new medical periodical published at Toronto; the editors are Drs. W. A. Young, J. J. Cassidy, and E. Herbert Adams. *La Médecine Orientale*, which has just made its first appearance on the journalistic stage under the editorship of Dr. Michel Kobas, will, as its name imports, devote itself to the diseases of Eastern climes.