

Their Majesties having entered the building the following Address was read by the Honourable Sydney Holland:—

On behalf of the Committee of Management, we beg to offer to Your Majesty and to Her Majesty The Queen our most respectful thanks for Your gracious kindness in coming here to-day to open this new out-patient department.

For years past the numbers of poor people seeking help of this hospital had been increasing rapidly, and at last overwhelmed us. In our old buildings it was not possible to treat them at all properly, and it was no longer possible to ask our staff to work under such impossible surroundings. So we determined to erect a building which to all time ought to prove sufficient, and to remove all the out-patient work away from the hospital itself into this new department. It is this which we ask Your Majesty and The Queen to open formally to-day. We say "formally" open because Your Majesty will be glad to know that the building has stood the test of working. We have used it now for three months, and have on several occasions, in addition to the patients attended in the special departments, treated considerably over 1,000 patients in an afternoon. The building has cost £80,000, of which £25,000 was given by one friend, who insists on remaining anonymous. After full inquiry and consideration he attached to his gift two very wise conditions:—(1) that all letters of admission should be abolished; (2) that those patients who could afford to do so should be expected to pay something towards the cost of the medicines and bandages supplied to them. I can assure Your Majesty that these two conditions have worked in every way satisfactorily and smoothly. The first ended an intolerable hardship—the second a manifest abuse.

We hope that Your Majesty may graciously consent to go over the building; and, in doing so, we shall be able to show You and Her Majesty The Queen the new Finsen light rooms, which we will ask Her Majesty to dedicate to this beneficent work. England owes it entirely to Her Majesty that the cure for this terrible disease was introduced into this country, and we are very proud of the confidence Her Majesty has shown in this hospital in entrusting to us the responsibility of doing this.

This out-patient building is only one of many great improvements we are making to fit our old hospital to carry out properly the great responsibilities we have to meet; and I can assure you, Sir, that we should none of us have dared to commence this great work had we not received generous help from the Hospital Fund started by Your Majesty, and now presided over by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. We have also been generously helped by the members of the Stock Exchange, by the great firms of brewers in this neighbourhood, by the Lord Mayor (who has appealed from the Mansion House, and who gave a dinner to make known the need of the hospital), by the Press, and by many members of the stage. I have the honour of asking Your permission to present a list of those managers of theatres who have thus generously helped us.

It is not an easy task, Sir, to be responsible for this great hospital; but we have always had very great encouragement from those whose encouragement is the best incentive to do good work. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge has been our President for the last 50 years, and has always taken the greatest interest in the hospital. Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Herself laid the foundation-stone of our last great addition, the wing given by the Grocers' Company. And to-day we have the still further encourage-

ment—one none of us will ever forget—of having this building opened by Your Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen.

We respectfully thank you, Sir, and thank you, Madam; and it will be our earnest endeavour to do what we know will please You most, to devote our lives and energy to help back to health and happiness the poorest of Your Majesty's subjects.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

"It gives Myself and Queen Alexandra great pleasure to be here to-day and to open this building.

"It is a satisfaction to Me to see such a great advance in hospital construction and policy, and I am glad to think that the out-patients in this hospital will be treated with greater care and attention than has been possible in your old building.

"I am unable to thank by name the generous donor who has given £25,000 to this building; but it must be a pleasure to him to see his gift so well bestowed; and I am specially glad to learn that the benefits of the London Hospital are open to every one who is poor and ill without having previously to obtain a letter from some subscriber.

"I note also with satisfaction the help the hospital has received from the great employers in the neighbourhood; and looking at the report I notice as a matter of interest that your treasurer, Mr. John Henry Buxton, succeeds his father as treasurer and has also a son on the committee. I note also the very generous help the hospital has received, especially from the Lord Mayor and several great societies.

"You have rightly alluded to the interesting fact that the Duke of Cambridge has presided over this hospital for 50 years. We are all delighted to see him here to-day, and trust he may long be spared to continue his duties as president.

"I well remember the visit of Queen Victoria, My beloved Mother, and I know of the great interest She took in this hospital.

"Speaking for Queen Alexandra, I can say that She is very much pleased with the way this hospital has carried out the trust She imposed on it; and it is the greatest satisfaction to Me that She has been able to introduce into this country from Her own country the invention of Her distinguished countryman Dr. Finsen for the treatment of lupus, which has already produced such satisfactory results.

"We shall have great satisfaction in inspecting the building; and before declaring it open I wish to record My deep feeling of gratitude to this hospital, which, at the time of My severe illness, provided Me with so distinguished a surgeon as Sir Frederick Treves, with an anaesthetist in Dr. Hewitt, and with two such nurses—Nurse Haines and Nurse Tarr—whose unceasing attention I cannot sufficiently praise.

"I declare this building open, and may God's blessing rest on all who come to it for aid and on all who work in it."

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

In pursuance of Section 118 of the above Act, the Right Honourable Aretas Akers-Douglas, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, has been pleased to appoint Mr. Robert Hartley Birtwistle and Mr. Arthur David Edwards to be Inspectors' Assistants under that Act.

Whitehall, 18th June, 1903.