

The sympathy of Your Majesties and all the Members of the Royal Family with every charitable and philanthropic endeavour is well known, and perhaps one of the most important features of it has been the establishment by Your Majesty of the King's Hospital Fund for the purpose of co-ordinating the work of the various special Hospitals and directing the flow of charity to the best advantage.

The Committee of Your Majesty's Hospital Fund, having realised that great economies of management might be effected by a policy of amalgamation amongst those special Hospitals carrying on similar work in London, urged the Committees of the old Royal, National and City Orthopædic Hospitals to amalgamate their funds and build a Central Institution.

This building, which Your Majesties are now about to open, and which has been constructed on the most approved lines of modern medical and sanitary science is the first realisation of this policy of concentration.

The Hospital provides for 200 In-patients, most of whom are children suffering from malformations, which can be cured in the early stages, but which, if not taken in time, will render them cripples for life.

In addition to the Hospital itself we have, across the road, a Nurses' Home and an Out-patients Department, where last year over 11,000 cases were treated, and where we have now installed a special gymnasium for orthopædic treatment.

The cost of these buildings has amounted to about £75,000, £20,000 of which is still required.

This matter is the more urgent as we have over 400 patients now waiting for admission.

The Committee remember with gratitude the kindly interest of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria who, for many years, gave Her Patronage to the Royal Orthopædic Hospital and granted a Royal Charter in 1864, while Your Majesty's own name was enrolled as a Life Governor as far back as 1850.

It is a great satisfaction and encouragement to all connected with this Institution that Your Majesty renewed the Royal Charter, in 1905, in favour of the Amalgamated Hospitals, and that the names of Your Majesties are at the head of the list of the Hospital's supporters as Patron and Patrons.

May we again express to Your Majesties our humble and most grateful thanks for the honour of Your visit here to-day, which we are confident will ensure the future prosperity of the Hospital, and the continuance and increase of its work among the poor.

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

"I thank you most sincerely on behalf of the Queen and Myself for the loyal expression of your appreciation of Our presence here to-day. I responded with much pleasure to your invitation to lay the foundation stone of the new buildings of the amalgamated Hospitals, in one of which My Beloved Mother, Queen Victoria, so long took a lively interest, and with which I Myself was associated for upwards of 50 years. The Queen wishes me to say that She takes a special interest in your work among crippled children, and She is glad of this opportunity of showing Her deep sympathy with your efforts to alleviate their lot.

"I rejoice to think that those who control the funds subscribed for the Hospitals of London are alive to the advantages of concentration. There can be no more striking example of the

valuable services performed by the Committee of the Hospital Fund which bears My name than this amalgamation into one of three special Hospitals. Not only is money, which otherwise would have been spent on the upkeep of separate institutions, set free for the definite achievement of the objects for which the institutions exist, but the wider experience gained by collecting all the cases in one building is likely to be productive of valuable results in treatment.

"I trust that you will speedily be relieved of any anxiety in the matter of funds. You tell Me while your Hospital provides for 200 In-patients, more than 400 are now waiting for admission, and you point out most truly that early treatment is often the only means of rescue from a life of suffering and helplessness. I am sure there is no lack of generosity among those who are able to contribute to the support of such an institution as this, and that your pressing needs merely require to be brought home to the imagination of those who would be glad to give, did they but realise the urgent necessity for help. The cause of helpless little children makes a special call on the sympathy of all, and no words of Mine are required to commend the claims of an institution whose object is to restore suffering children to health and to enable them to live as useful citizens.

"It was with great pleasure that I renewed the Royal Charter on the amalgamation of the Hospitals, and I can assure you that the Queen and I will always take the warmest interest in the beneficent work of this institution, of which we are most happy to be patrons."

Whitehall, July 30, 1909.

The following Address was presented to the King on His Majesty's arrival at Wrest Park on Saturday, July 24th:—

To His Most Excellent Majesty King Edward
the VII.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Bedford have the honour and privilege of presenting to Your Majesty on this Your visit to the neighbourhood of our ancient town our dutiful and loyal address.

We remember with pride and gratitude that nearly eight centuries ago municipal privileges were conferred upon our town by King Henry, the first of the line of great English Sovereigns, and that by successive charters extending from the reign of Henry the II to that of Charles the II the liberties and privileges so granted have been extended and confirmed.

We venture respectfully to felicitate Your Majesty upon the great and beneficent work in the cause of international peace which Your Majesty has been able to accomplish not only during the years of Your Majesty's auspicious reign but also for many years previously when Your illustrious and revered Mother was the Monarch of this Realm.

Representing as we do a centre of educational interest and progress (endowed by the munificence of Sir William Harpur) and spreading its influence throughout the length and breadth of Your Majesty's dominions we recall with respectful admiration the support and encouragement which Your Majesty has always given to the cause of the Higher Education of the youth of this country as well as to all other matters tending to the educational and social improvement