Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability Archive Service : Digital copy

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR NEURO-DISABILITY: Fundraising: Appeals: Christmas Appeals

Our 'at Home'

Ref No: GB 3544 RHN-FU-2-3-22

Part 1

UR SAT HOMES Meanward House

RHN/FU/2/3/22

Our "At Home."

People have been sinding that Carols Carols on hive Carols they live Christmas Carols for they live

With the Complaint of M.

Board of throughout of M.

Rogel Hospital for Sheurables,

Putney Heats.

Christmo, 1914.

PATRONS.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

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THE RIGHT HONBLE. LORD WOLVERTON.

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S.W.

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Date		for £	tion
IR. CHARLES CUTTING, Secretary, ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, 4, Sr. Paul's Churchyard, E.C. From*	Address	Enclosed you will find a	send you ast a Donation a Life Subscription
ROYAI		Sir,	N

INCURABLES, FOR IN HOSPITAL ROYAL

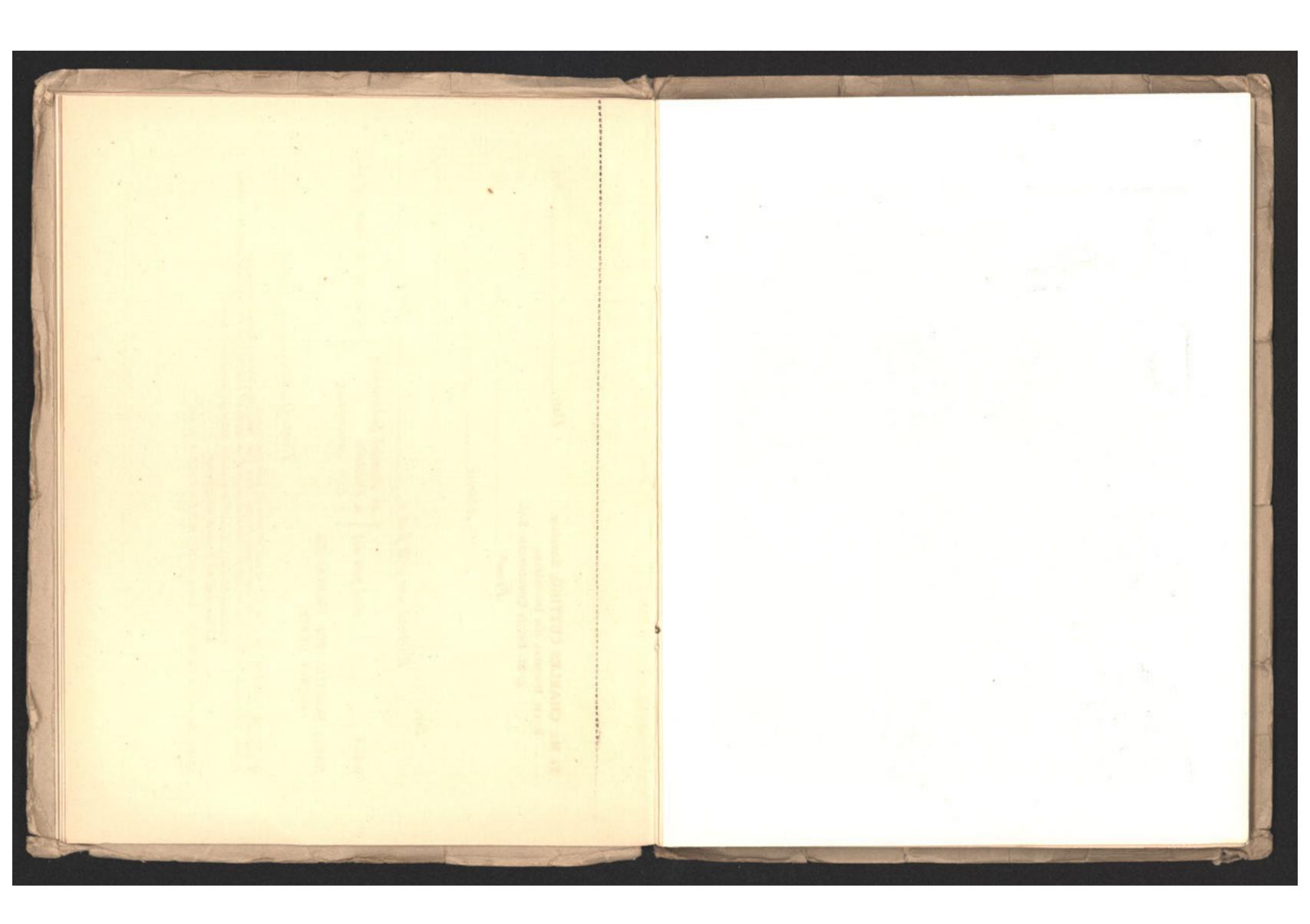
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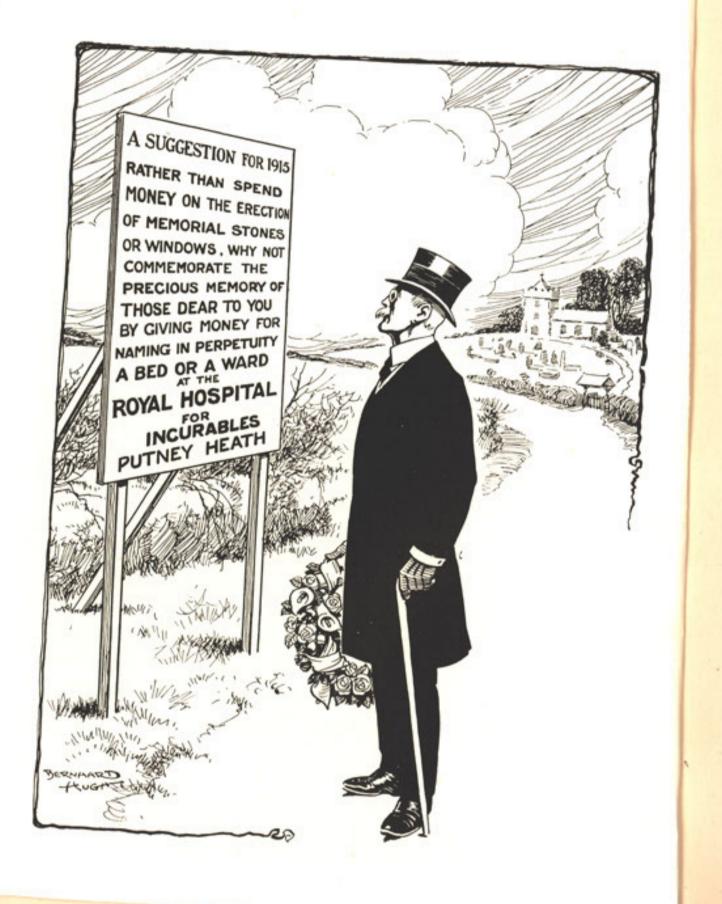
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the list of name as it should be printed in out the words not applicable. Please write

MILLS, GLYN, CROSSED CHEQUES

MATRON-Miss BEGG.





Our "At Home."

Home, the nursery of the infinite.

Channing.

*

Home is Heaven for beginners.

C. G. Parkhurst.

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Home, in one form or another, is the great object of life.

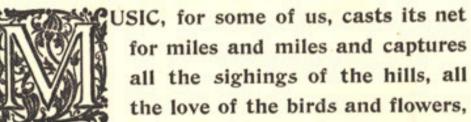
J. G. Holland.

*

This is the true nature of Home—it is the place of peace; the shelter not only from all injury, butfrom all terror, doubt, and division.

Ruskin.

Introduction.



all the fragrance of the heather, all the breathing beauty of the landscape, all the glintings of the sun, all the strength and melancholy of the sea, all the moanings and mysteries of the quarries, all the weird lutings of the wind, all the whispers of the breeze, all the laughter of the splashing water-fall, all the purling and curling of the brook, all the timid wooing of the dawn, all the sad and changing farewells of the sunset, and brings them, as willing victims, to pour them out so soothingly upon the grateful ears of those who love and understand the tune of the ripening woods. And what sort of an "At Home" would it be without music? But to Incurables music must be taken, since they cannot go to it.

Our "At Home."

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may seem absurd for us to give the above title to our Christmas Appeal, for we are always at home! However, the title is a new one so far as our Appeals are concerned.

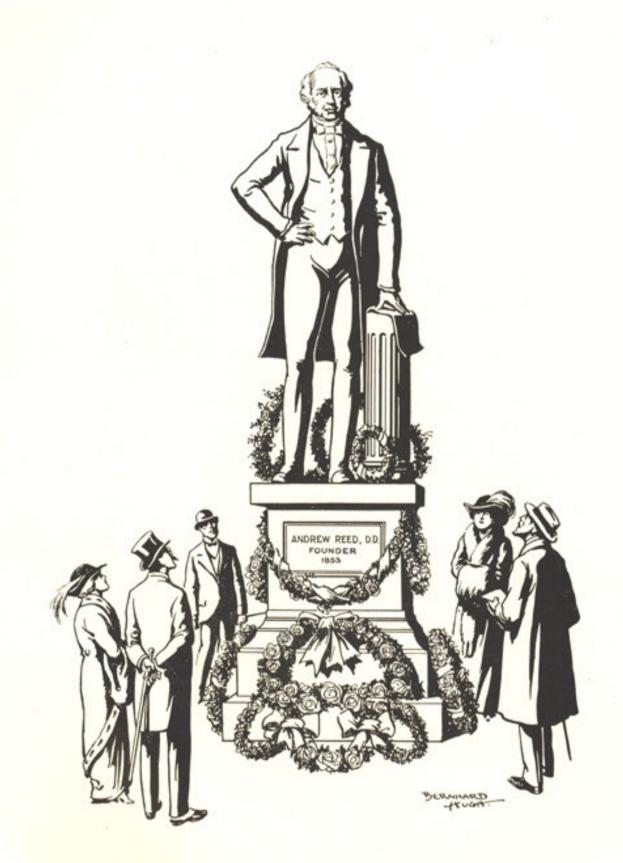
Every housewife knows perfectly well that there is all the difference in the world in being at home and in being "At Home." As a matter of fact, we Incurables are always at home; many of us are always bed-ridden. Only once a year are we in one sense "At Home," and that occasion is Founder's Day.

Dr. Andrew Reed, who founded this National Charity, was born on the 27th of November, in the year 1787, and the Board of Management of the Royal Hospital for Incurables celebrate Founder's Day year by year on a date fixed as nearly as possible to the birthday anniversary of the Founder.

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All is activity and bustle and excitement on Founder's Day at the Home-on-the-Hill. In spite of physical circumstances that with some would depress and dishearten, we do our utmost to assume a cheerful air. The wards have as bright an aspect as willing hands and hearts can give them; the windows are polished and the blinds are scrupulously arranged; all the flower vases bear their quivering messages of colour and poetry to the observing eye. The eider-downs and the ward furniture and the pictures on the walls are as symmetrically arranged as human eye can judge. The very atmosphere of every room and nearly every one of the 62 wards breathes unaffected and eager anticipation. We Patients and members of the staff are on the qui vive. We wonder who will come and who will stay away, and how many of the guests will remember events that are crossing our own minds on this eventful anniversary.

For 230 of us this Royal Hospital is a Home. We receive visitors almost daily, and we have our newspapers and our magazines and our treasured books, but Founder's Day is a day apart, a day of grateful memory, a day of



wistful thoughts, a day of history, a day of devotion, a day of prayer, a day of faith.

About the month of September the Board of Management fix upon the day that shall be Founder's Day. To the uninitiated it may seem singular that our "At Home" should be arranged so long beforehand, but to those of us who know and understand, preparedness is everything. As soon as the date of Founder's Day is fixed a polite intimation is printed in all the newspapers, in the hope that near and distant friends may make a note of the date and keep it free for a visit to this Institution. Then there is some printing to be done; invitations have to be printed, the programme of the musical arrangements has to be printed. Our gardeners have to be informed of the fixture, so that they may have our chrysanthemums and plants at their very best. For on Founder's Day we decorate the Entrance Hall and the Assembly Room and the dining rooms and the corridors with flowers grown upon our own premises and in our own little green-houses. Visitors, as well as Patients, love to see flowers, fresh from the hand of God, brightening and cheering this "Palace of Pain."

If we tell you in this modest booklet just what happened at our "At Home" last year, you may perhaps realise how important and how real and how great Founder's Day is to us. We know, of course, that only a very few among the generous subscribers to this Charity are able to visit us on Founder's Day, yet we also know and feel that those subscribers and friends who do come represent a vast number of others who would be here if they could. Neighbours and supporters from all parts of London flock to our Home on Founder's Day. One Patient here, who has occupied the same bed in the same ward by the same window for thirty-eight years, shook hands and chatted with no fewer than forty-nine visitors on 2nd December, last year. We believe that those forty-nine visitors would tell, at least, five hundred absent friends of their impressions when going into the wards and other places in these extensive buildings.

Early in November the Board of Management sent out hundreds of invitations. The exact form of invitation, without the name of the invited guest, is printed here:—

The Royal Hospital for Incurables

PUTNEY HEATH.

Founder's Day Celebration

On Tuesday, December 2nd, 1913.

The Board of Management present their compliments and request the pleasure of the company of

Programme

Tea and Coffee

will be served at 6.30 p.m. in the Library.

A Concert

will be given in the Assembly Room at 7 o'clock

0

Mr. Thos. M. Mickham, g.c.a.

(THE CHAIRMAN)

and

Mr. Gliot Pye-Smith Reed

(RELATIVE OF THE FOUNDER)

will address briefly the Visitors and Patients.

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Refreshments in the De Lancey Lowe Room afterwards.

The Hospital is not quite a mile from East Putney Railway Station (District Railway), where cabs are obtainable.

As the Assembly Room will not

accommodate all the guests and

in-patients, guests are inbited to

bisit the Mards, where the bed-

ridden patients will welcome them.

Putney Station (L. & S. W. Railway) is rather more than a mile distant.

The Royal Hospital for Incurables

PUTNEY HEATH.

Oldest and Largest Charity for Incurables in England.

Patrons

His Majesty King George V. Her Majesty The Queen. H.R.H. Princess Christian.

Chairman

Thomas M. Mickham, Esq., L.C.C.

Treasurer

Sir Genry Lopes, Bart.

Maintains 230 Inmates and 700 Pensioners for Life.

Requires £35,000 yearly.
Only £6,000 assured.

Perhaps some friends who will turn these pages have already paid a quiet visit to the Royal Hospital for Incurables, have already sat by the bedside of a sufferer and talked and learned and wondered, have already gone out again into the world and told how pain is borne without a groan, how free are men and women who are bed-ridden, how happy and resigned are some who take no part in the ordinary joys and pleasure rounds of the average healthy person. To-night there is a stir, a change. It is Founder's Day, and we are all trying bravely to forget that we are in a Hospital.

Here is the Assembly Room. Upon the floor is a carpet that weighs over two tons; this is a room that would easily accommodate 600 or 700 ordinary guests. To-night the room is packed with patients and visitors, but there are not more than 350 souls, all told. There are about 150 patients, and the majority of these are in wheel-chairs or upon couches, which take up a good deal of space. For this reason the Assembly Room, large as it is, is not large enough for our needs on Founder's Day. Row upon row and row upon row of faces strike the eye as one stands upon the small

Offices: 4. St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C. CHARLES CUTTING, Secretary.

platform that has been erected in front of the organ. You will observe that Mrs. Harmonic, one of the Patients, who usually wears a cap of severe black, is to-night wearing a cap in which there is a dash of heliotrope. You may also notice that Mr. Electson, another Patient, is wearing a waistcoat that is more cut away at the front than the one which he usually wears. Everyone of the Patients is making a bold bid for "At Home" customs and manners. Visitors who cannot find seats near to the platform are crowded into far corners and are content with a seat on the arm of an easy-chair that is occupied by a patient. All the electric lights are turned on fully. There is a buzz of animated but hushed conversation: a visitor is making a sign of greeting to a friend who is yards away; attendants in uniform are giving the last touches to the evergreens that are round the platform, on each side of which is arranged a group of reserved chairs which are to be occupied by members of the Board of Management. Visitors, who have been taking tea and coffee in the Library, are now arriving, and the clock is about to strike seven. Programmes are passed round, and the Chairman

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ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES,

PUTNEY HEATH.

Patrons :

H.M. KING GEORGE V. H.M. THE QUEEN. H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

Chairman:

THOMAS W. WICKHAM, Esq. L.C.C.,

Greasurer :

SIR HENRY LOPES, Bart

programme of Music..

Arranged for the Board of Management by Mr. Sydney G. Hennikes (organist of the Institution).

for

Founder's Day,

Cuesday, December 2nd, 1913.

Mr. THOMAS W. WICKHAM and Mr. ELIOT PYE-SMITH REED will say a few words during the Interval.

PART ONE,

1	PIANOFORTE SOLO" Marionette March"
2	SONG
3	SONGSoftly awakes my heart"Saint-Saens Miss DORICE GAY.
4	VIOLIN SOLO" Un peu d'amour "
5	SONG
6	SONG
7	HUMOUR AT THE PIANO

PART TWO.

1	SONG
2	SONG
3	VIOLIN SOLO Tarantella "
4	SONGOn the Road to Mandalay "Oley Speaks Mr. ROY F. TRUSCOTT.
5	SONG
6	HUMOUR AT THE PIANO

There will be some Music in the corridors for the benefit of the bed-ridden patients.

Accompanist: Mr. FREDERICK ARTHUR.

Mr. ARCHIE NAISH.

GOD SAVE THE KING

The Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, is the oldest and largest Institution of its special character in the world; it maintains 230 Inmates and 730 Pensioners for life. The Annual Expenditure is £35,000 and the sum of £6,000 only is assured; £29,000, therefore, must be raised yearly from voluntary sources.

CHARLES CUTTING.

Secretary.

City Office: 4. St. Paul's Churchyard, E.C.

and his colleagues enter punctually. Here is a reproduction of the actual Programme.

Our good Chairman, Mr. Thomas W. Wickham, needs no introduction; his father was for many years a member of the Board, and our present Chairman has been a most energetic and enlightened member for the past twenty years. When it is remembered that the Board hold between seventy and eighty meetings a year, in addition to the many social and other occasions when his presence is required by the Charity, one will easily conclude how much time and energy the Chairman has devoted to the endless work of the Hospital.

Mr. Eliot Pye-Smith Reed is a grandson of Dr. Andrew Reed, the Founder of this and several other noble institutions. Mr. Reed has been a Member of the Board for the past twelve years.

The Chairman's Speech.



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I desire to give you a very hearty welcome to our midst. These visits are very interesting and are helpful to our Patients, and the Board are delighted when we can get a number of ladies and gentlemen from the district and from a distance to come and visit our Home. To our friends here who reside in the House I desire to express, on behalf of the Board, our gladness that so many of you are able to be present to-night. We feel that this is one of the red-letter days of the year, a day which you look forward to and which we look forward to, because we have the opportunity of seeing more of our friends than on any other day in the year, and we know that the entertainment provided is a great delight to you. Some of you have seen many Founder's Days, and we most sincerely trust that this Founder's Day will not be behind in interest and enjoyment any of those which have preceded it.



Usually on this occasion we endeavour to speak of a few of the events that have taken place during the year that has passed. First of all, it is my sad duty to refer to the death of the Marquess of Northampton, K.G., who for twenty years filled the position of President of this Institution. You know as much about his character, I presume, as I do, but I wish to bear testimony to his nobility and uprightness, and to the great interest which he always manifested in the affairs of those who reside in this House, as well as in those 730 pensioners who are dependent upon the funds of this Charity.

Another matter to which I must refer to-night is that of our finances, and I speak of that more to our visitors than to our Patients. We have had what I may term a fairly successful year. We do not speak of it as one of the "bumper" years—we have not been quite able to pay our way this year, but we have received more in legacies than we have done for some few years past, and we are looking forward to a larger increase in that direction than we have had for some time. It may not be known to all our

visitors that our assured income is only between £6,000 and £7,000 a year, and I think in mentioning that you will at once see the anxieties that beset the Board in having every year to find about another £29,000. That is not an easy matter, and we sometimes look forward with a certain sort of dread to the raising of this large sum of money. May I say to any millionaires who are thinking of making provision for this Hospital in days to come, that if they will kindly leave the amount free of duty we shall be greatly obliged. I may tell you that a new legacy of £25,000 which we are soon to receive is free of duty, and it makes a difference of £2,500 to us, a very considerable amount (applause). I venture to hope that friends who are thinking of making dispositions in our favour will bear that in mind.

Another matter I should like to speak about is that we have two new members on our Board. In the first place, we have Mr. Walter Lacy Allcroft, a brother of our late Treasurer. I think this Institution would be almost lost without the honoured name of Allcroft on its pages. For many years that family has assisted us in numerous ways and shown a deep interest in those who live here. In Mr. Walter Lacy Allcroft we feel we have a valued successor to his brother, who was so much respected and loved here. He has taken a deep interest in our work, and I know that on some occasions in order to be present at the Board meetings he has put himself to great inconvenience, having had to come from a long distance. Mr. Webster-Jones, who has lived in the neighbourhood for some years, and who, with his family, has taken a very great interest in all that goes on here, has also joined the Board. When I tell you that this gentleman, with two other members of the Board, one day, only about a fortnight ago, spent seven hours on the premises, carefully looking round to see whether anything was necessary to be done to add to the comfort of the Patients and the staff, I think you will agree that he, with others, is really taking more than an ordinary interest in the great work that goes on here.

Another matter I wish to mention, and that is our Annual Sale of Work, which is conducted by Mrs. Casher, and has been so ably conducted by

her for very many years past. It may not be known to all the visitors that this Sale of Work is of prime importance to those living here. Some of our friends are able to work during the whole of the year and make things which will effect a sale at the Bazaar. Some of our friends are not able to do this, but can work only part of the time, and others are not able to work at all. I am sure the ladies who visit here will be interested to know that the money received at this Sale of Work adds very much to the comforts of our Patients. They are able to provide many little personal luxuries that add to their joy by these means, and those ladies in the neighbourhood and away from it who come to support this Bazaar may feel quite assured that they are giving very great pleasure to many of those who reside here.

Another aspect of our work I would like to touch upon to-night is that of the Lady Visitors. These ladies do a very unostentatious work. Week by week they visit our friends here, and their visits are a source of very great comfort to many poor souls. Those who are

