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Taking round the Hat

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Taking
round the Hat

RHN/FU/2/3/31

TAKING ROUND
THE HAT

CHRISTMAS, 1926

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I bequeath to THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY, the sum of £ _____, free of duty, to be paid, together with the duty thereon, out of such part of my estate as can be lawfully bequeathed for charitable purposes, and to be applicable to the general purposes of such Institution, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of such Institution shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

N.B.—By virtue of the "Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891," land may now be devised to a Charity, but it is liable to be sold within one year from the death of the Testator.

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In Memoriam.

WHY NOT COMMEMORATE THE PRECIOUS MEMORY OF THOSE DEAR TO YOU BY GIVING MONEY FOR NAMING IN PERPETUITY A BED, OR A WARD, AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY, A MEANS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY BE A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTED, BUT ALSO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL MERIT OF AFFORDING RELIEF TO THOSE WHO ARE WORTHY OBJECTS FOR SUCH PRACTICAL SYMPATHY? A BED WILL BE NAMED IN PERPETUITY FOR THE SUM OF £1,000. A PENSION FOR AN INCURABLE WILL BE NAMED IN PERPETUITY FOR THE SUM OF £500.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

An Annual Subscriber has One Vote for Half-a-Guinea, and an additional Vote for every additional Half-a-Guinea. A Life Subscriber has One Vote for Life for Five Guineas, and an additional Vote for Life for every additional Five Guineas.

Subscriptions received at the Office, Bond Court House, Walbrook, E.C. 4, by the Secretary, to whom all Orders should be made payable; by the Treasurer; and by Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C. 3.

It may surprise some readers to learn that the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, is denied a share in the annual distribution from the King Edward's Hospital Fund and the Saturday and Sunday Collections for the Hospitals. Not one penny from these Funds ever finds its way to this Charity. The main reason for this is that the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, does not cure patients, a task which it would naturally not pretend to undertake since it only accepts cases which have already been discharged as incurable by other hospitals, or certified as incurable by two doctors. Surely the fact that this hospital is denied a share in the distribution of these Funds lends added claim upon the generosity of the public.

The Hospital is not quite a mile from East Putney Railway Station (District Railway), where cabs are obtainable. Putney Station (Southern Railway) is rather more than a mile distant. Motor omnibuses (Services Nos. 51 and 85) run from Putney Bridge Station (District Railway) to the top of Putney Hill, which is within three minutes' walk of the Hospital.

Foreword

"So the house next door is taken?"

"No."

"But I see from the window a lady on her knees working in the garden."

"Ah, that is Mrs. ———. She owned the house many years ago and it was she who made the garden. They say she spent three hundred pounds on it. Now she is living in humble lodgings, and when the last tenants left she asked if she might go in each day and keep the garden in order. IT IS A LABOUR OF LOVE. The next tenants will get the benefit of it. She is on her knees half the day."

"Ah, I see. The garden is just a HOBBY of hers."

"Well, if you think that is the right word."

From *The Children's Newspaper*.

Taking Round the Hat

(With Illustrations by Mr. Lewis Baumer, to whom the Board of Management is much indebted).

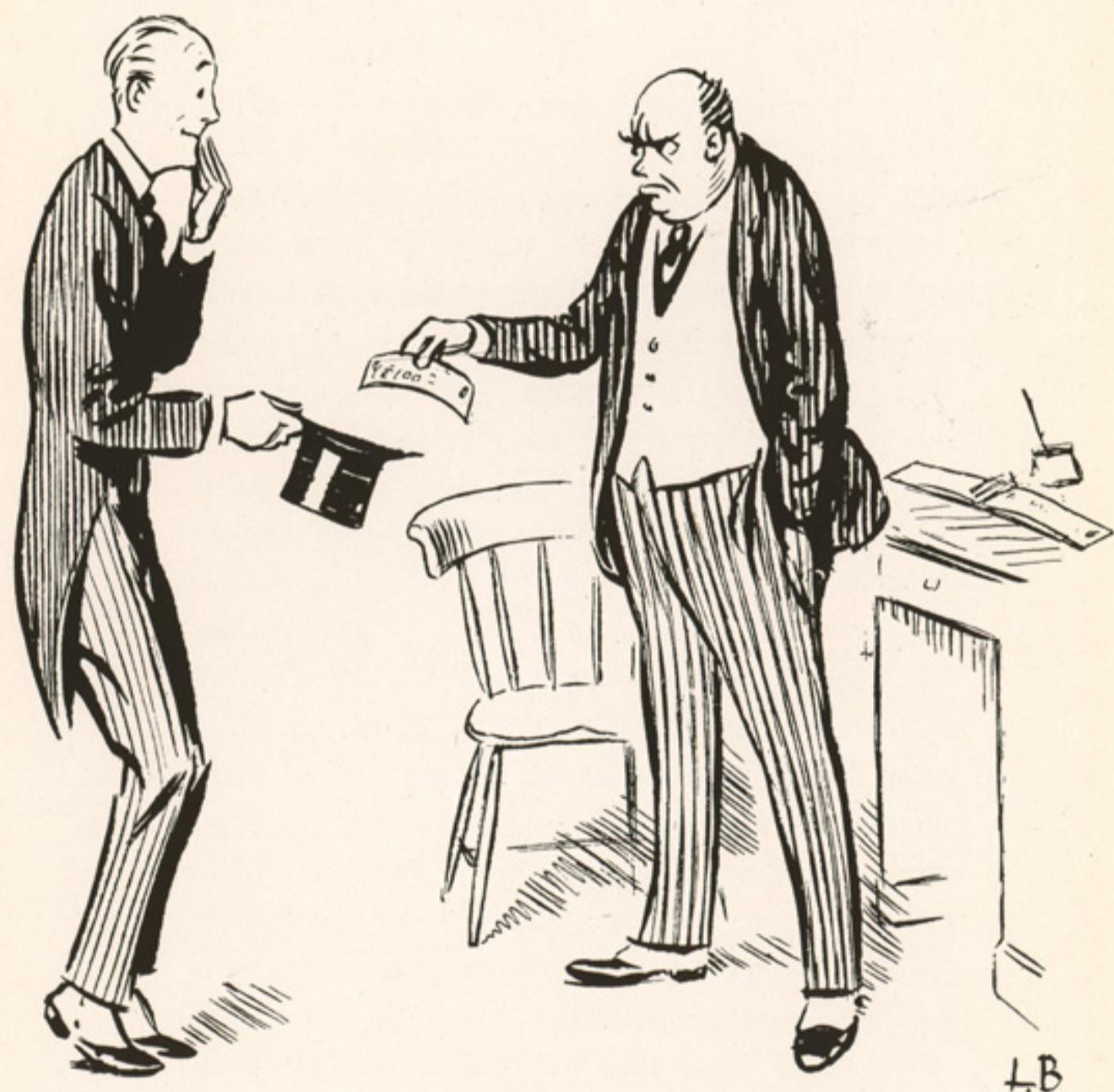
IT is a highly creditable and interesting fact that many of the friends and supporters of a great Charity, when sending their annual subscriptions or their donations, conclude their letters with some remark or other to the effect that they hope the Institution will have a good financial year, or continue to prosper, or "come in" for a big windfall. Such an expression is kind and pleasant and is made much after the manner that one inquires about the health or general prospects of an acquaintance.

The practical people who are interested in any large philanthropic concern understand without doubt how very important it is that the funds necessary for carrying on the work should be forthcoming, and for that reason their chief anxiety is lest, from some cause or other, public sympathy and support should diminish. Even the members of the governing bodies of our voluntary hospitals are at times filled with apprehension as to where next year's income is coming from. Therefore, good wishes as to the future are encouraging and welcome. Hospitals

and kindred institutions are not like some sea-side landladies : they cannot demand their money in advance !

Taking round the hat is a task from which many individuals shrink ; they declare that they would almost rather sweep a street-crossing than make a practice of going a-begging for a cause, however worthy. Maybe such friends are too sensitive and fear sneers and snubs. On the other hand, there are people who seem to think that taking round the hat is mere child's play ; that with good temper, earnestness, perseverance and self-assurance anybody could do it with success. Again, getting money is regarded by some as a gift or a trick. One is told that a good beggar should have a wide knowledge of human nature ; that he must be observant, diligent and shrewd.

An experienced person who takes round the hat does not at all times consider that it is worth his while to exercise his deeper mind on all those whom he approaches ; he is not unduly dismayed when he is received by somebody who adopts a decidedly unfriendly attitude, nor does he over-fret when he does not get beyond the front door of a big house. It is not always the very polite host who does most for one. Givers have their moods just as surely as have lawn-tennis champions. A rich man or woman is occasionally sorry afterwards for being peevish, and frequently, on reflection, pays handsome compensation.



I'M TIRED OF SEEING YOU CHAPS, BUT HERE YOU ARE.

Taking round the hat is, in a measure, similar to casting a fly; one never knows one's luck. Men and women who take round the hat are like farmers—they are seldom contented! They have many difficult interviews in strange apartments and it is only when they are out in the street again that they think of what would have been their strongest argument; interviews with strangers cannot be rehearsed—how unfortunate!

There are many excellent people who, while equal to earning a living for themselves, are so ignorant of the ways necessary in taking round the hat as to be blameless for failure.

* * * *

The man who takes round the hat must at least have some surface courage, or he is misapplying any energy and talent that he may possess; he should aim at creating exhilaration on the part of those whom he approaches by suggesting that he thinks he has as much right to be proud of his work as has the man who tries to write a beautiful poem. He should, as far as possible, convey the idea that he is working for a cause that *must* be worked for if civilisation is worth anything. He will realise, as years of practice accumulate, that success in taking round the hat is not a matter of chance or caprice, but rather that it is a matter of hard, continuous and thoughtful labour. He will discover that venturesomeness has certain rewards as well as

inevitable penalties. He will often have reason for despair, because he will meet with so much apathy. But any nervous torment that he may experience must be thrown off quickly and fortitude must be his rôle; there is philosophy to be learnt from a fall. He must not, in any circumstances, be "cheeky."

It should not be difficult for him to paint a little picture of the monstrous vicissitudes of human fortune before the eyes of those to whom he goes for financial help. He will need all the wisdom and moderation he can command in putting his plea before strangers, especially before those who know nothing and who have heard nothing of the Institution for which he is begging.

The man who takes round the hat should realise that mankind is universally inclined to be friendly towards the sick, the suffering, the helpless and the hopeless. Anyone who undertakes the duty and the privilege of taking round the hat has the right to expect courtesy and consideration from his fellows. Still, it is well never to be surprised at anything that may happen anywhere; surprise is a quality that should be cut out from the mental equipment of everybody who is engaged in presenting an appeal for contributions towards a voluntary object.

The personage who is really clever at taking round the hat is cast in a mould all his own. He must be of the terrier type; he must smile at



THE MAN WHO TAKES ROUND THE HAT MUST SMILE
AT NEGATION.

negatives and make attack after attack when he can do so without giving offence. He learns as he lives and he carries burdens undreamed of by those who live in a groove. One day he must be as light and dainty as a ballet dancer and the next day he must be as sudden and unceremonious as a footballer. He should be a constructive worker and teach himself how to turn a disappointment into a victory. One day he has to be young and the next day old, but always he must be a "live wire."

To be gentle and kind is most desirable, yet at times it is necessary to be aggressive and subtle. Watchfulness and caution are essential, or mistakes that cannot be undone will result. Love for mankind is just as necessary as determination to succeed, for determination to be acceptable is a form of goodwill and breeding. The guiding principle in every profession and every trade and every calling is *to win*.

Outlook, point of view, horizon—what are they but hope? We hope and pray for such and such an aspect; but when we find and secure it we must still pass on, for we cannot stay at one point very long. We have to steel our hearts to carry on and on. This life is not the last life and we all know it, not so much from any teaching we have received as from an inner and positive prompting. Yes, taking round the hat brings with it many serious thoughts.

It is all very well to write flowingly of the many duties and responsibilities and the qualities desirable for the man who takes round the hat, but a simple illustration is necessary to bring home to the individual reader the actual state of affairs.

* * * *

Let us take—as a notable example—the needs and claims of the ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY, which must secure year by year a sum of £50,000 for the relief of over nine hundred suffering Incurables.

The Charity was founded in the year 1854 by Dr. Andrew Reed. It was instituted at the Mansion House, and for that reason the City of London has always taken a warm and practical interest in it. It was designed to relieve and cherish for life persons of the poorer middle classes suffering from incurable maladies and thereby disqualified for life's duties. In carrying out this design regard is had to the actual condition and necessity of the case; for persons needing a home a Home is provided: medical attendance, nursing and creature comforts are supplied and unremitting endeavour is made to alleviate suffering and to cheer the life from which health has departed. To persons having a home, but without adequate means of support, a pension of £20 a year is given, so staving off, in many cases, the breaking-up of the family circle and giving the invalid a sense of being saved from the



TITLED LADIES SOMETIMES TAKE ROUND THE HAT
WITH SUCCESS.

pain of absolute dependence. At the present time the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, has 246 patients and the pension list numbers 650.

The investments owned by the Charity bring in a sum of about £9,000 a year only. It will, therefore, be gathered that over £40,000 a year must be secured from *voluntary sources*.

The money comes in the form of annual subscriptions, donations, dividends, sundry receipts, legacies and so on. Legacies are always an uncertain and fluctuating quantity; one year the amount received may be satisfactory, while the next year the receipts from this source may drop. The only income that can be regarded as *reliable* is that from investments and annual subscriptions. Even annual subscriptions are not "assured" income.

The money goes in a thousand-and-one ways. A mere list of the articles purchased would weary the most patient reader. A family of 246 patients with the necessary staffs required for nursing, laundry and domestic work, makes a very large total. There are down at the Putney Home for Incurables, all told, about 380 persons who have to be fed and housed and looked after.

When one reflects that a large percentage of the Incurables are entirely helpless and have to be fed and washed and lifted—as if they were helpless babies—one can soon understand how essential it is that adequate staffs be employed.

The patients now in the Hospital come from all parts of England—because this is a National Charity. A very fair and not an isolated instance of what takes place on the part of those who are responsible for collecting the £41,000 a year is a letter written recently to the Chief Constable of one of the most popular and populous watering-places in Great Britain. In the letter occurred the following :—

“ We see that the Police of ——— are
“ giving a Ball at the ——— ——— on
“ Friday next in aid of the local Hospitals.
“ That is very interesting news, and it causes
“ us to wonder whether you and your
“ colleagues are aware of the fact that in
“ your large town and its immediate neigh-
“ bourhood this National Charity has no
“ fewer than *twelve* pensioners. We send
“ each of these poor invalids £20 a year for
“ life. That means that this Charity is
“ sending £240 a year to your town. Do you
“ not think, therefore, that we may claim to
“ be included with the local Hospitals?

“ We suppose you can do nothing this
“ year, but we feel certain that, with your
“ first-hand knowledge of our work, you will
“ do what you can to get us ‘ on the list ’ in
“ future years.

“ We could tell you a good deal more
“ about what we do for your town and

“ district, but we will not trouble you beyond
“ mentioning that about eight of our present
“ inmates at Putney hail from ——— and
“ they cost us £150 a year each.

“ We shall be very grateful indeed if you
“ will just remind your local friends that
“ the Royal Hospital and Home for Incur-
“ ables, Putney, has an enormous claim upon
“ your famous watering-place. We believe
“ that in you we have a good friend who
“ will see that the fact is remembered in
“ future.”

That letter in itself is proof that the Putney Home and Hospital for Incurables has a very strong claim on many, if not all, big towns. Why, in Devonshire alone there are *twenty-eight* Incurables who regularly receive a monthly pension-cheque from the Institution. In the Isle of Wight there are fourteen pensioners.

Letters of appeal are written on every day of the year and no stone is left unturned in the effort to raise the necessary annual sum. Hundreds of friends write and explain how to do this and that, but many of the suggestions offered are not of a very practical nature. The suggestions are kindly and fragrant, but, like cut flowers, they have no producing roots.

* * * *

So much has been done, especially of late years, in Great Britain to relieve want and distress, that

even the wise and benevolent may be led to conclude that Charity has fulfilled her mission. There are, in fact, not a few Charities which, either by defective principle or by reason of the fact that they "overlap" other Charities, might well be spared. Still, with this admission before us, there is one class of SUFFERERS for which Charity has not yet done enough.

The general hospitals of the land, with their admirable management, hold a very high and honourable place, but the benefits they confer, however far-reaching and important, are necessarily of a limited or qualified character. Some of the big hospitals, realising that their work is of a temporary nature, have established Convalescent Branches for the benefit of those who leave their wards with the sweet hope of further improvement. But there is another class of sufferers requiring and deserving quite as much of our sympathy as the convalescent; that class consists of those who leave our hospitals under the verdict of *irremediable and helpless disease or incapacity*.

What is to become of these utterly helpless fellow-creatures? There are, even in these days of medical and surgical skill, hundreds upon hundreds of patients who are discharged from our general hospitals and who are thrown out on the world because they are regarded as INCURABLE. These sadly-stricken invalids are without the power to provide for themselves or their families



ON FLAG DAYS VERY YOUNG LADIES DASH AT IT.

for all future time. Many of them would rather perish than descend to pauperism, yet, by disease, by accident, or by deformity, they are wholly and permanently disqualified from earning a living.

What is to become of them? Disease and accident find them in respectable life and independent exertion; they are taken to a hospital with the hope of speedy restoration to health and to their accustomed occupations; but in due course they are informed that their hope is absolutely groundless. The best medical or surgical skill is found to be entirely unavailing. They must be dismissed from hospital because they are **INCURABLE**. Can any affliction of our mortal state be more affecting or more oppressive? It is a dreadful thing to lose health, it is something more to lose, in the loss of health, the very means of providing for life itself, and it is yet much more to learn that the disqualifying disease or affliction baffles all remedy and is indeed **HOPELESS**.

* * * *

This, then, is the forlorn and cheerless condition of many of our fellow-citizens. They cannot beg, for they have been accustomed to work. They decline to be paupers, for they have wooed independence as their better life. They have been stricken down from their honourable and treasured standing by ruthless disease or accident, and what is to save them from the dreadful

extremities of poverty, want, despair and death? What is to save them if not the hand of Christian brotherhood? Are we not, the richest and best of us, heirs to the same frailties; liable to the same fell accidents and diseases; and needing, in one form or other, the self-same sympathies? Is it possible for us, under the force of such considerations, to withhold our compassion? Is not the sufferer our brother? Is he not one with ourselves? Might we not have been called to suffer what he suffers, and should we not cheerfully yield him our utmost help, alike from the convictions of duty as well as from the tenderness of compassion?

The Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, is not intended to assist the worthless, the dissolute, or the pauper. The law of the land has provided sufficiently for them. The Putney Home for Incurables is meant to help those who would gladly have helped themselves (and others also) had not untoward circumstances crossed their path by awful and overwhelming calamity.

Surely there is none, however exalted, however happy, who can think that such an object is beyond the range of their sympathies. Who that is in health is not exposed to sickness? Who must not be conscious that he owes his happiness and his usefulness, his peace of mind and his power to bless others to his preservation from disease and accident? Who might not be, in an

instant, stricken down by withering and hopeless affliction to the state of the lowest, the most desolate? Our condition is essentially one; let our sympathies be one. Have we health? Let us relieve the sick. Have we wealth? Let us help the poor. Are we strong? Let us pity and uphold the weak. Are we happy? Let us feel for the miserable. Let us bear each other's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ—the law of kindness and of love!

* * * *

The man who takes round the hat is enabled to offer many pleasant compensations to those who respond generously to his plea; he is always on the brink of adventure.

It is not invariably the case that the giving of a cheque—even for a substantial amount—brings satisfaction to the donor. In "The Life of Parnell," by Barry O'Brien (vol. II., p. 27), the following incident is recorded:—

"The Lord Mayor, a man of culture and an eloquent speaker, was deputed, with some other leading citizens, to wait on Parnell at Morrison's Hotel and to hand him the cheque. His lordship naturally prepared a few suitable observations for the occasion. At the appointed hour the deputation arrived, and were ushered into a private sitting-room, where stood the Chief. The Lord Mayor, having been announced, bowed and began:

' Mr. Parnell —— ' I believe,' said Parnell, ' you have got a cheque for me.' The Lord Mayor, somewhat surprised at this interruption, said ' Yes,' and was about to recommence his speech, when Parnell broke in : ' Is it made payable to order and crossed ? ' The Lord Mayor again answered in the affirmative, and was resuming the thread of his discourse when Parnell took the cheque, folded it neatly, and put it in his waistcoat pocket. This ended the interview."

How very different is the comforting experience of anybody who sends a cheque to the Treasurer of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney. By return of post the giver of the cheque receives a letter of grateful thanks with an official receipt for the sum sent. The letter conveys the fact, also, that the cheque entitles the giver to certain privileges, such as voting for suffering Incurables at the half-yearly Elections, a promise to keep the giver informed from time to time as to how the National Charity is progressing, the right to attend certain interesting meetings and to take a part, as it were, in the active direction of a great Institution founded with the intention of helping those fellow creatures who cannot help themselves. Truly a cheque sent for the benefit of the Putney Incurables means that a good action has been done, and it also means that



THANK YOU

the giver of the cheque is provided with means of hearing about the results of his or her generosity.

* * * *

The Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, treats only those who are bearing a sad cross. The patients are treated hopefully; notwithstanding the fact that the presumed incurable, hopeless case alone is eligible for the benefits of this National Charity, all means are used to restore the patient to health. *This cannot be done on so large a scale without much money.* £1,000 IS SPENT EVERY WEEK. A huge institution needs a huge income, and when the object of and the reason for the existence of such a Home of Waiting is the custody and care of the Incurable, surely money will be forthcoming from those who have it!

Incurable! Can we imagine it, we who rise with the morning sun glad in a new day, feeling the blood race through our veins at the prospect of movement; we who can climb the hills and run through the valleys, bathe in the sparkle of the waves upon some sandy shore, or wander at will about the dim streets of the town; who look towards far places on the great earth and plan some day to seek them, or make our pleasure by our own safe firesides, our children about our knees? Can we, who have so much, fail to give bountifully, according to our means, to those who have so little—little of health, or of money (which

means some physical comfort), or even of friends (which mean comfort, too) ?

Wonder of wonders, from the sick bed, from the couch of agony, in our Great House of Mercy at Putney we hear words of resignation and even happy jests. We who so often grumble in the blue air of the outer world see these brothers and sisters in pain with smiling faces and contented eyes. But the care of our 246 patients at Putney and the relief of our 650 pensioners up and down the country could not be continued unless those responsible frequently took round the hat, or if the sympathy and practical help of the healthy and the comparatively happy began for any reason to wane.

Remittance Form

To SIR HENRY LOPES, BART., Treasurer,
ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY,
BOND COURT HOUSE, WALBROOK, E.C. 4.

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From*

Address

Sir,

Enclosed you will find a

which

an Annual Subscription }
a Donation }
a Life Subscription }

in aid of the funds of the

ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, PUTNEY.

(Signed)

AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIBER has one Vote at each Election for each Half-Guinea.
A DONATION entitles to Votes at the next ensuing Election, Four Votes being given for each Guinea contributed.
A LIFE SUBSCRIBER has One Vote for Five Guineas, and an additional Vote for Life for every additional Five Guineas.

* Please write name as it should be printed in the List of Governors and Donors.
† Kindly strike out the words not applicable.

CHEQUES TO BE CROSSED "Messrs. GLYN, MILLS & CO."

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Сумма:

Платить по инвентарю № 12345 в Местное Собрание № 12345 от 1912 г.

Всего руб. 100.00

Местн:

_____ руб.

БАНКЕРС. ОРДЕР.



