

Western Mail.
May 21/08.

5

CHALLENGE TO THE PUBLIC.

MR. JOHN CORY AND
THE INFIRMARY.

INCREASED REVENUE OF
£7,000 WANTED.

SPLENDID OFFER OF
HELP.

NEW DEPARTMENT FOR
OUT-PATIENTS.

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR
OSLER.

A large and influential assembly of ladies and gentlemen, representative of the wide district served by the Cardiff Infirmary, met at that institution on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the formal opening of the new out-patient department, which has been erected at a cost of £8,000. Major general Lee, chairman of the board of management, presided, and he was supported on the platform by Professor William Osler, M.D., F.R.S., Regius Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, who had accepted the committee's invitation to perform the opening ceremony; the bishop of Llandaff, Principal E. H. Griffiths, the Rev. W. E. Winks, and Lieutenant-colonel Bruce Vaughan, the infirmary's indomitable and self-styled "cheerful beggar," who was able to announce another noble challenge from that prince of philanthropists—Mr. John Cory. The audience cheered Lieutenant-colonel Bruce Vaughan enthusiastically when he rose to make his pronouncement, and were quite prepared for the statement that, for his own part, he had already decided to accept Mr. John Cory's challenge to raise the necessary additional annual income of £7,000 a year, making a total yearly income of £18,000.

Prayer by the bishop and the singing of a hymn was followed by the Chairman's invitation to Professor Osler to open the new department, whereupon that distinguished visitor, accompanied by members of the house committee and the medical board, proceeded to the main entrance in Longcross-street, and, with a key presented by the architect (Mr. Edwin Seward, F.R.I.B.A.), unlocked the door, and returned to the platform to declare the department open. The Rev. W. E. Winks having offered a prayer, Professor Osler, who was loudly applauded, said he had haunted out-patient departments for many years, but he had never before seen so attractive a group of patients, all suffering from a variety of ailments.

Professor Osler, who was loudly applauded, said he had haunted out-patient departments for many years, but he had never before seen so attractive a group of patients, all suffering from a little affection of the heart. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He congratulated the citizens of Cardiff, the university college, and the managers of the institution, and more particularly the architect, upon their model out-patient department, which was a credit, not only to the city, but to the whole country. (Hear, hear.) There were three important functions in connection with an out-patient department, and the first was to minister to the sick poor. But here, at the outset, they raised the burning question, "Who is the sick poor man?"—a question he was not going to attempt to answer on that occasion. There were, however, three classes of cases who might apply there reasonably and rationally for relief, and the first was the class of urgent cases of accident, &c., which they all knew at a glance. Then there came the very poor, their unfortunate fellow-beings who were not able to earn more than 21s. or 25s. a week, who ought to have institutions of that kind to come to for medical attendance. He said that he hoped, without any interference with the private interests of his professional friends, to whom they owed the deepest debt of gratitude. When the time to go to Heaven came those of them who got there would see that there was not a place there higher in the ranks than those occupied by medical men who had done so much for so many years for so little. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) There was no man who lived such a Christlike life as the general practitioner, and he was the last man to say a word that would interfere with the general practitioner's hard-earned daily bread. The third group for whom institutions of that kind should minister were the occasional poor. Many of them were constantly occasionally poor, if he might be allowed to say so—(laughter)—for he meant by the occasional poor the man who earned £2, £3, or £4 a week, who was able to support his family and do very well when times went smoothly, but who, when sickness or accident came, had not the margin wherewith to pay his doctor's bill. He might be able to pay for ordinary attendance, but could not possibly meet a reasonable doctor's bill for an operation for appendicitis, for instance. Such an out-patient department should not be considered by the general practitioners of the vicinity as in any sense hostile to their private interests. It was not hostile to them; and, furthermore, such a department should be a consulting-room for the general practitioners of the neighbourhood. The question was raised whether it was right to take small fees from such patients, and whether a hospital should take any fees at all. Personally, he saw no reason whatever why this should not be done when the patient could afford to give something. That system had been carried out successfully in the London Hospital without any hardship upon the general practitioner. Another point was that an out-patient department was the training school for the profession. Their physicians should not be overworked, but should be allowed to take advantage of all possible voluntary assistance. Then, again, a large part of the teaching in connection with their local medical school should be given in the out-patient department, and he was pleased to see that a room had been specially devoted to teaching purposes, for they could gradually cultivate men in the profession to the highest possible standard. There was no reason why in Cardiff, with its 180,000 inhabitants, they should not have in a few years as good a medical school as there was in the United Kingdom. (Hear, hear.) He appealed for a more intimate affiliation between the hospital and the University College, because wherever that affiliation was real, the work in both institutions was more effectively done. (Hear, hear.)

LOW SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Professor Osler, Principal Griffiths said he hoped that the keynote struck in favour of a close union between the hospital and the college would ring harmoniously for many years to come. It was accepted that Welsh students showed singular aptitude for medical work. The Rev. Father E. J. Hobson seconded, remarking that the infirmary had been under a cloud of late years. Out of a community of about half-a-million there were only 400 on its subscription list.

more effectively done. (Hear, hear.)

LOW SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

In proposing a vote of thanks to Professor Osler, Principal Griffiths said he hoped that the keynote struck in favour of a close union between the hospital and the college would ring harmoniously for many years to come. It was accepted that Welsh students showed singular aptitude for medical work.

The Rev. Father E. J. Hobson seconded, remarking that the infirmary had been under a cloud of late years. Out of a community of about half-a-million there were only 400 on its subscription list.

"If all this has been done whilst the infirmary was under a cloud," said Professor Osler in reply, "what are you going to do when you come out into the sunshine? Four hundred out of half-a-million? Well, Abraham would have thought that a pretty high percentage!" (Loud laughter.)

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Lieutenant-colonel Bruce Vaughan, who initiated and carried the scheme to a successful issue. He enumerated the many schemes which had been rendered possible by Colonel Bruce Vaughan, who had collected something like £14,000 between 1900 and 1905, together with £8,000 for that department, and £30,000 for the new wing about to be built. (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. Tatham Thompson seconded, and the vote was accorded with acclamation.

INCREASED REVENUE.

MR. JOHN CORY'S WELCOME OFFER.

Lieutenant-colonel Bruce Vaughan, in reply, referred individually to the donors of the large sums subscribed to the funds, and added a piece of new interesting information—that Mr. Goscombe John, out of the goodness of his heart, was designing and would execute a tablet with the following inscription:—

To commemorate the noble service of Song in the cause of Charity.

The out-patient department of the infirmary was furnished out of the proceeds of a concert given by Baroness Cederstrom (Adelina Patti) at the Park-hall, Cardiff, October 21, 1905.

For this cause will I sing unto Thy Name.

The department had only been opened three weeks, and 1,500 new patients had already passed through its doors. (Hear, hear.) Provision had been made for the attendance of students and clinics in every department, and there were at the present time 28 students receiving instruction in dispensing, under the able tuition of Mr. Williams. Since 1905 the number of medical students