

examining bodies that they should admit students to their final examination who present a certificate stating that they have "conducted personally," only three, and "been present at" only nine confinements; and as the General Medical Council has refused on November, 1890, to alter this recommendation, we instruct our Council to petition the General Medical Council to recommend that no student be admitted to his final medical examination until he presents a certificate showing that he has personally conducted at least thirty confinements under the direct supervision of a registered medical practitioner. We also instruct the Council to take immediate steps to have Section 20 of the Metropolitan Poor Act, 1869, repealed, which prevents workhouse infirmaries from being used for the clinical instruction of medical students in practical midwifery while pupil midwives are now admitted; and also to petition the committees, medical staffs, and, if need be, the subscribers to the City of London Lying-in, the British Lying-in, and the Clapham Maternity to withdraw their rule which excludes male medical students from clinical instruction at these hospitals, seeing that these are now used by pupil midwives.

Opening Ceremony of the Royal Free Hospital

BY T.R.H. THE PRINCE & PRINCESS OF WALES.

MUCH pleasant expectation had been aroused at the Royal Free Hospital and in the neighbourhood by the fact that on the 22nd of July the Prince and Princess of Wales were to open the new front building.

When the long drought was broken many anxious doubts assailed the minds of those most interested—"Will it be a fine day?" This question appeared to be answered distinctly in the negative at half past twelve o'clock, and the flags in front of the Royal Free and in the courtyard began to droop somewhat dimly. But suddenly the sky lightened, and by the time Royalty arrived the sunshine was really brilliant. Meanwhile the guests were assembling in the Milne Ward, which was cleared of its patients and had been beautifully decorated for the occasion with drapery, flowers, ferns and palms.

The presenters of purses were seated opposite and round a scarlet-covered dais erected for the royal visitors, on which were blue and gold chairs and beautiful flowers.

Waiting for the proceedings to begin was rendered pleasant by the music performed by the string band of the Royal Engineers, and by watching the energetic movements of the stewards, most of whom were the women medical students connected with the Royal Free. And a very pretty picture they made in their varied gowns, and hats, and bows, and feminine decorations. Some were hatless, and perhaps these looked more picturesque, their hair being charmingly dressed. There was no suggestion even of the "dowdiness" which in bygone times was associated with women who went in for 'ologies. On the contrary, they showed as very attractive types of womanhood.

On the arrival of the royal party they were received in the courtyard by a guard of honour of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, and they were then conducted by the Earl of Lathom, who is a Vice-President, and the Reception Committee to the Board Room, where they signed their names as a memento of their

visit to the Hospital. They then passed to the Milne Ward, where a large number of invited guests were awaiting the ceremony.

One of the medical students presented the Princess with a beautiful shower bouquet of red and white carnations, with red ribbon streamers, and the architect, Mr. William Harvey, handed her a gold key, of the new front entrance. The Princess was most becomingly dressed in black silk, the bodice being trimmed with a profusion of lace studded with diamonds, and a black bonnet with jet and diamonds.

The Princesses Victoria and Maud wore light heliotrope silk gowns and small black and heliotrope bonnets. Royalty and the guests alike were very much amused by a very small baby child, dressed in white satin, who afterwards presented a purse, wandering about at its own sweet will on a tour of investigation and being worshipped by the assembled women students.

The Earl of Lathom read an address of welcome, in which he expressed the gratitude felt by the Committee and all interested in the Hospital, at the inauguration by the Princess of Wales of the new building, and by her permission that it should be called the Alexandra Wing.

The Prince of Wales, in reply, said that he would like, in his own and the Princess's name, to tender their thanks for their kind reception, and the Princess desired him to express the pleasure it gave her to open the new wing. It was particularly fitting that they should take an interest in the Royal Free Hospital, as so many of his family had been connected with it. George IV. was patron, as was also William IV., and after him the Duchess of Kent and the Queen; while he himself, since 1863, had been a Vice-president. He wished a long prosperity and every success to this great Hospital.

Purses were then presented to the Princess ladies and children—some of these latter being very tiny, and indeed several of them had to be lifted up to perform their duty. As the light blue satin purses were heaped up on the table, it was announced that their contents amounted to £500, which, with donations in connection with the event, brings the total raised to £2,000. Mr. Burt, the chairman of the Weekly Board, in an admirable speech, said it was particularly appropriate that the Princess of Wales should be present at a Hospital which had been the first to throw open its doors to women students of medicine. He also announced that Mr. John Bentley had undertaken all the expenses connected with the opening ceremony, so that no call should be made for this on Hospital funds.

The Royal party at the conclusion of the ceremony went through the students' room, where the ladies were drawn up in line, and thence through the operating theatre, where a large number of Sisters and Nurses in dainty spotless uniforms were assembled. They then entered Elizabeth Ward, being accompanied in their rounds by some of the Hospital officials and the Earl and Countess of Lathom. An inspection was then made of Calthorpe Ward, the Princess making very kind inquiries from the patients as to their condition, and presenting carnations from the bouquet to several of the children, the Ward Sister supplying her with a pair of scissors to enable her more easily to detach the blossoms. During the tour the Sisters and Nurses from the upper floor wards assembled on the stairs to give the royalties a hearty welcome, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)