

## THE EDITOR'S LETTER-BOX.

[Correspondence on all subjects is invited, but we cannot in any way be responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, who must give their name and address as a guarantee of good faith, but not necessarily for publication. Correspondents are reminded that brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early insertion.]

### Hospital Library.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR.—It has been decided by the Joint Committee of the Red Cross and Order of St. John to continue the work of the War Library for a term of five years, under the name of "The British Red Cross and Order of St. John War and Peace Hospital Library," at 48 Queen's Gardens, Lancaster Gate, London, W. 2. This decision is in response to an appeal signed by those who had the widest experience of the great and beneficial work done for the sick and wounded by the War Library during the war. Literature in hospitals is always needed, in war and in peace. Large numbers of men require treatment for an indefinite period. In sending you our grateful thanks for your gifts of the past, we ask you to continue to send us your spare books, magazines, and illustrated papers

to the above address, from which centre they will be distributed to the hospitals and hospital-ships in Great Britain, and our Armies of Occupation. Our funds do not permit us to purchase largely, and it is hard to say "No" when suffering men write for books and magazines. We must in the future depend largely on the public remembering us and our needs; therefore please constantly send us a book or magazine when it is no longer needed.—Yours truly,

H. M. GASKELL,

C. HAGBERG WRIGHT,

Hon. Secretaries, War Library.

48 Queen's Gardens, Lancaster Gate, London, W. 2.

[We hope that our readers will, and thus incidentally improve the miserable shelf which usually is misnamed "Our Hospital Library."—ED. "THE HOSPITAL."]

### Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR.—My attention having been directed to your issue dated the 1st inst., I may perhaps be permitted to thank you for publishing a notice of a pamphlet ("Cancer Research and Vivisection") recently published by this Society, although I can hardly compliment you upon the tone of it. It would almost appear that, instead of attempting to give a fair idea of the contents and spirit of the book—the main contention of which he admits to be true—your reviewer jumps at the opportunity of attacking a philanthropic Society of which he appears to know nothing, but of which he could easily have obtained the fullest information. The fact that an effort of this kind is controlled principally by laymen is surely not sufficient offence for it to be condemned—by a responsible journal—to the lay public, who, after all, are the principal supporters of all such movements, and, incidentally, the principal sufferers from an unconquered scourge.

I enclose a recent Report, with a full list of officers, of this Society, and must request you to correct your reviewer's erroneous statement that no such information is published—a statement which is quite untrue and which might be likely (I hope it is not intended) to damage a genuine and earnest effort for the public welfare. In its origins, objects, and management alike, my Society is open to the fullest investigation.—Yours truly,

DOUGLAS MACMILLAN,

Honorary Secretary.

[The pamphlet in question contained, as was stated in the review of which Mr. Macmillan complains, an appeal for funds, and did not disclose any information about this Society's officers beyond that mentioned. In our view, any Society issuing an appeal for funds should publish with that appeal sufficient information as to its

aims and officers to enable the public to form some idea of how the funds will be applied. From the leaflets now sent it is possible to learn that one of the Vice-Presidents of Mr. Macmillan's Society is Miss Lind-af-Hageby, and that another is a Vice-President of the British Anti-Vivisection Society. It is noticeable also that Mr. Macmillan quite omits any disclaimer of hostility to vivisection. From this the conclusion suggested in THE HOSPITAL as possible—that this Society is anti-Vivisectionist in aim and tone—appears more than ever justified. As regards the control of this Society by laymen, there are one or two observations that seem to be pertinent. A society which aims at the "Prevention and Relief of Cancer" without the co-operation of a single medical man of recognised eminence in his profession can scarcely expect to be taken seriously. The problem which cancer presents is so serious and so difficult that only the best scientific brains of the country should be encouraged to tackle it. Any scheme which neglects this principle is merely wasting labour and money. It is true that the S.P.R.C. can hardly be accused of wasting much money, inasmuch as its total income for 1918 is given by Mr. Macmillan as £48, and the total expenditure as £21. But the Society professes to have as one of its "foremost objects" the provision of hospital accommodation for the treatment of cancer, and to establish "not one, but several cancer hospitals in various parts of the country"; and it appeals to the wealthy and philanthropic for donations and legacies. With the fuller information now available, by Mr. Macmillan's courtesy, we can only reiterate with much more conviction and energy than before that the S.P.R.C. cannot be recommended to public support.—ED. THE HOSPITAL.]

### Buildings Contemplated and in Progress.

CHIRK.—A strong representative Committee has been formed with the object of raising £5,000 for a proposed hospital for Chirk, Denbighshire.

COLWYN BAY.—The war memorial is partly to take the form of the extension of the present hospital accommodation at a cost, for fifty to sixty beds, of £50,000.

DEPTFORD.—The War Memorial Committee has decided upon the provision of a children's ward in the Miller Hospital. It is estimated that the cost will be £7,000.

GRAYSHOTT.—Efforts are being made to raise £10,000 for providing a joint cottage hospital for Grayshott, Headley, and Hindley as a war memorial. A site at Grayshott has been given.

HELSTON.—It is proposed to erect a new cottage hospital for Helston and district.

PORTSMOUTH.—The Town Council has received sanction from the Ministry of Health to borrow £1,876 for a new smallpox hospital.