

The Editor's Letter Box—(continued).**"The Story of Hospital Sunday."***To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.*

SIR,—Referring to the article under the above heading in your issue of June 26, wherein it is stated that the first "Hospital Sunday" was held in Birmingham in 1859, it may interest your readers to know that an annual collection has been regularly made in the churches and chapels of this city on behalf of the funds of its Royal Infirmary for the past one hundred years at least. On the petition of the managers presented each year to the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, that body makes a recommendation that a certain Sunday be set apart for the purpose (that day having been the fourth Sunday in November for many years now), and which recommendation is universally adopted. Owing to the accounts not being given in detail in the old Minutes and the reports not having been printed in these far-away days, I am not in a position to state the actual year when the practice was commenced, but the return from this source formed a very considerable portion of the hospital's voluntary revenue a century ago.—I am, Yours faithfully,

WM. S. CAW,

Treasurer and Clerk.

The Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh,
June 30, 1920.

To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—As a young hospital secretary and a hospital worker for many years, I delight to read your valuable paper each week. In your issue of June 26 last there appears an article, "The Story of Hospital Sunday." The Staffordshire General Infirmary cannot, as far as I am aware, record the fact of a Hospital Sunday collection as far back as 1792, but a charity sermon was preached

throughout the diocese in 1801 for the benefit of the institution, and resulted in the sum of £1,364 3s. 8d. being handed to the charity. In 1861 Hospital Sunday was established in Stafford, and ever since that year contributions have been received from the Hospital Sunday Committee. The Rev. J. Henn, the Secretary of the Hospital Sunday movement in Manchester, in the letter to the late Sir Henry Burdett referred to in your article, is a little out of it when he states that all the records of the hospitals are copies of theirs, which was inaugurated in 1870. Stafford can claim at least nine years' start.—Yours faithfully,
A. E. COLLINS, Secretary.
Staffordshire General Infirmary, Stafford.

Union in the Nursing Profession.*To the Editor of THE HOSPITAL.*

SIR,—Societies, the nursing Press, and individuals have joined in your protest against the action of the borough of Bermondsey in requiring their nurse employees to be members of a trade union. Most certainly political or religious tests are to be deprecated in connection with such appointments. The profession, however, awaits unification, and the registered nurse of the near future must realise that only by combination (call it by what name you will—College, Association, Union) can any standard of training, opportunity, and pay be raised and maintained. It is interesting to note that at the present moment a matron, a ward sister, and a district nurse, all personally known to me, are receiving from the Borough of Bermondsey a really adequate rate of pay and emoluments, enjoying longer holidays, and working shorter hours than have ever before been arranged for similar posts.—Yours faithfully,
F. A. SHELDON.

14 St. Thomas's Street, S.E. 1,
July 5, 1920.

A Successful View Day.

ON Thursday afternoon, July 1, the Great Northern Central Hospital, in Holloway Road, celebrated one of the pleasantest View Days in the whole of its history, and this notwithstanding the depressing character of the weather.

After the tour of inspection the Chairman made a speech to the visitors when they assembled in the Board Room. He explained in detail the necessity for at least £57,000 for the hospital, as contrasted with the £1,600 which is assured by the endowment. He explained the working branches of the hospital and the usual charges for patients, though in each case absolutely necessitous patients are treated gratuitously. They could be summarised as follows:—

General Wards: From a few shillings per week to 21s.

Cubicle Wards: £1 1s. to £4 4s. per week; and another grade about to be provided—*i.e.*, private wards, with charges from £4 4s. to £6 6s. per week.

Out-patients: 1s. to 5s., according to the dressings or operation required.

He pointed out that his out-patients' department, when built, was intended to provide for 40,000 annual attendances. The attendances at present are at the rate of 200,000 per annum. The casualty department, again, when erected, served a largely residential area. This now is more commercial, and consequently provides many more casualties. A hundred cases a day was not uncommon, instead of the usual twenty per day at the beginning.

Including the Convalescent Home at Clacton, the hospital had 310 beds, but there was at the present moment no fewer than 300 urgent cases on the waiting-list. Before any extension in beds was possible it was absolutely essential to increase the income. It was hoped, partly by the develop-

ment of a branch for private wards, to obtain from private patients' payments, or payments made on behalf of patients, about £20,000 of the minimum of £57,000 required this year. They were now appealing for this balance of £37,000 for the treatment of necessitous cases.

A certain amount of criticism had been directed against the hospital for endeavouring to extend its work while there was a shortage of funds. But the extensions needed would result in very little increase in expenditure for maintenance and might result in a positive saving. An instance of this was afforded by the nurses' quarters, which at present were six old, dilapidated houses, whereas it was desired to house them in one central building in Manor Gardens, the site of which was already secured. The quarters would be more commodious and would be rent free.

The needs of the hospital could be summarised as: £10,000 immediately for maintenance; an additional £4,000 before the end of the year; £15,000 to pay off debt; £3,000 for structural repairs which have been held up by the war.

Money was needed also for extension. Sites were secured, but funds must be provided for the building operations. Among the efforts continuously being made to raise funds might be included a large bazaar and a house-to-house collection in North London twice yearly, the first in November or December next. Special public meetings to explain the work and the necessities of the hospital will also be held from time to time. His Lordship expressed the hope that all those present could organise concerts, fêtes, and garden parties during the next few months.

During the service of tea to the guests some donations of money and many offers of help were received. Such immediate help is the best of all.