

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

University and Hospital Must Join Hands.

Sheffield.
1911 +
1912

SIR W. OSLER'S PLEA.

A plea for the linking up of universities and hospitals in the advancement of medical and surgical science was made last night by Sir William Osler, the eminent Oxford physician, who was the principal speaker at the court dinner of Sheffield University. He said they had their medical school of which they might well be proud. In the last 25 years there had been a great change in the history of medicine, and particularly in the teaching of it and in the development of the great laboratories in the medical schools. That had taken all their funds, and the consequence had been that the men engaged in the more practical branches had had to give their services. He wished some of their business men would try that kind of thing. He would like to see Sir Joseph Jonas, for instance, doing as much as some teachers of medicine did for nothing. (Laughter.) There was no class of men in the community who did as much good work as medical men for the public in teaching men to become physicians, and the change he saw ahead and the new idea he wished to broach to them was this: He wished them to get into their minds the idea of transferring the university to the hospital. Let them take their departments of medicine and surgery and the different specialities over to the hospital, and there manage them on the lines of the other university departments. Let them make the study of disease of equal importance with the study of geology and metallurgy. There was no reason why the study of disease should not be placed on an equal plane with the treatment of disease and the teaching of students. Let them organise their clinics on modern lines.

Starved Teachers.

In English hospitals the medical student had better opportunities than anywhere except in France, but the teacher of medicine and surgery had been starved, and not given an opportunity, and he pleaded for the complete re-arrangement of the medical, surgical and special clinics, putting them on a university basis. Let them give the teacher a salary which would enable him to spend the greater part of his time in the investigation of disease and the care of patients and the teaching of students. He should have the control of say, 100 beds and a group of assistants working at the problems of disease, together with all equipment necessary for research and diagnosis. This was the idea in the air, and it was coming, and there was no reason why in the younger universities the change should not take place much earlier than in the older institutions.

Medical men generally also needed a great deal of instruction. There were no men who needed more post-graduate education than doctors, and in Sheffield they had the opportunity to give it to them. Let them make their post-graduate instruction open and free to every member of the profession in the city and district.

Sir William paid a warm tribute to the new Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, whom he said they all loved at Oxford. He had three justifications for his post. In the first place, he had mental eyes which very few of them had. In the second place he had a heart, which was so important in the head of an institution dealing with the young; and lastly, and most important, he had an ideal Mrs. Vice-Chancellor. (Laughter.) Unfortunately he lacked one important qualification, and that was the element of dulness.

much earlier than in the older institutions. Medical men generally also needed a great deal of instruction. There were no men who needed more post-graduate education than doctors, and in Sheffield they had the opportunity to give it to them. Let them make their post-graduate instruction open and free to every member of the profession in the city and district.

Sir William paid a warm tribute to the new Vice-Chancellor, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, whom he said they all loved at Oxford. He had three justifications for his post. In the first place, he had mental eyes which very few of them had. In the second place he had a heart, which was so important in the head of an institution dealing with the young; and lastly, and most important, he had an ideal Mrs. Vice-Chancellor. (Laughter.) Unfortunately he lacked one important qualification, and that was the element of dulness, which Dr. Fuller had declared was essential in the head of a college, but, of course, he was talking of Oxford and Cambridge. (Laughter.)

The University Spirit.

There were two ideals he wanted to convey to them, and the first referred to something essential in the successful life of a university, a curious, subtle, impalpable element, a sort of educational radium, an emanation not easy to analyse but the presence of which at once made itself felt. It was known as the university spirit, and it was shown among other ways by a certain attitude of mind among the professors and all connected with the University. There were two classes of people in the world—those who were in it to get all they could out of it, and those who sought to add as much to life as possible, and professors the world over formed an important contingent of the latter class. Their whole life was devoted to imparting knowledge. To the whole-hearted seeker after knowledge for its own sake civilisation owed its greatest debt. The man who had a broken leg set for him owed his life and leg to Pasteur and Lister, who cared nothing about the practical application of knowledge, but only the advancement of it; and in Sheffield they fairly battered on the brains of Faraday, the genius who made possible this age of electricity. They could scarcely name a great industrial process the foundation of which did not rest on the brains of the men who had laboured not for those results but to add to the sum of knowledge.

Industry's Debt to Learning.

This burning desire to add to knowledge was the chief manifestation of the university spirit, and the important thing in these large commercial centres was to make men appreciate that they must have among them those whole-hearted seekers after truth. The community lived on them and let them therefore acknowledge it and treat them properly. "Freely ye have received; freely give." (Hear, hear.)

Mr. George Franklin, Pro-Chancellor, who presided and responded to the toast of the University, proposed by Sir William, said he saw no reason why in their applied science department medicine and surgery should not be applied in the same way as other sciences. In the pure science and arts departments there was great need for still further buildings and so they were now launched upon a new scheme of extensions at Western Bank. Side by side with that they had pressed upon them the necessity of making that a residential University, and providing hostels for men and women. They must do that if they wanted to make that a thoroughly good University.

Dr. Hicks, the Master of the London Cutlers' Company, (Mr. G. Pocock), and the Lord Mayor (Councillor G. E. Branson), also spoke, and others present included Sir William Clegg, the Master of the Drapers' Company (Col. Benson), Ald. A. J. Hobson, Sir Joseph Jonas, Archdeacon Gresford Jones, and Ald. R. Styring.

my
art.

Nov. 1912

Had. Fisher from dates of V.C. of Bulgaria 1912-16

from the date when he was about 18.

Bygone in the course of the time
with love,

CUS417/114.100 3/3