

HASLEMERE COTTAGE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME.

MR. PENFOLD'S MUNIFICENT GIFT.

The chief interest in the annual meeting of the Haslemere Nursing Association, held on Friday evening last week, centred in the acceptance of the munificent gift to the town and neighbouring parishes, of the Cottage Hospital and Nurses' Home on Court's Hill by Mr. John Wornham Penfold. Last week we published some interesting particulars of the association of the Penfold family with Haslemere, a brief description of the building and a short account of Friday's meeting. The attendance in the Educational Hall, where the meeting was held, though not very large, was quite representative of the town. Mr. J. Stewart-Hodgson presided, and amongst others present besides Mr. J. W. Penfold, were Sir Robert Hunter, the Rector (the Rev. G. H. Aitken), the Rev. A. L. Keith, Drs. Winstanley, Ardagh, and Hutchinson, Messrs. J. W. Watson, B. L. Lee Smith, A. G. Parson, T. P. Newman, C. Whympster, G. T. Redmayne, L. Wagram, Charman, Grantham, W. H. Thomas, J. Simmons, C.A., B. Erskine, A. Evans, J. H. Meadows, and C. Pannell sen. Amongst the ladies were Mrs. Stewart Hodgson, Mrs. Aitken, Mrs. Parson, the Misses Jackson, Mrs. C. G. Roberts, Mrs. Winstanley, Mrs. Hutchinson, Mrs. Charman, Mrs. J. W. Watson, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Wigram, Miss Hesse, and Miss Harrison.—The Chairman called upon Mr. Penfold to make a statement.

Mr. J. W. Penfold said with regard to the new building on Shepherd's Hill, he would like it first of all, to be quite dearly understood that the erection of this building was by no means the result of a new idea conceived in haste and put up on the impulse of the moment. For several years past his sisters and he had it, in contemplation to do something which at the same time might be a memorial to their parents and of permanent benefit to the neighbourhood with which their family had been so long connected. Their own inclinations tended towards a cottage hospital, and they quietly set on foot an inquiry a few years ago, and the result was that it did not seem quite a fit time for starting an institution of that kind. It was said, however, that everything came to him who waited, and consequently they waited. In a short time two or three accidents—rather bad accidents—happened nearly together, and that seemed to point to the need of some special provision for these cases. Then it was found desirable that the old arrangements for nursing, which had obtained in the parish and done well for the previous 25 years, should be enlarged, and the association which was formed for that purpose was looking out for a home. Then the opportunity for which they had been waiting seemed to have arrived, and they proposed to erect a building which would serve both purposes, and the proposal was accepted. In the second place, he would like it to be understood clearly that although their gift was, very naturally, especially to the inhabitants of Haslemere, with which he joined that part of Thursley—their native parish, with which they had been so intimately connected for so long a time—it was none the less intended for the use of all the parishes in the vicinity who liked to avail themselves of it. It might not have occurred to some of their friends who had recently come amongst them, that within about a mile and a half of the market place of Haslemere there were outlying portions of no less than seven or eight parishes, in three counties, which were from two to six or seven miles from the parish churches, viz., Frensham, Thursley, Witley, and Chiddingfold, in Surrey, Fernhurst, Lurgashall and Linchmere in Sussex, and Steep in Hampshire. They were separated by the fens of the neighbourhood, and, without disrespect to the present authority, in older days by the mud ox Chiddingfold (laughter). They might take his own case as illustrative of this. He had never been but once to his own parish church, and that was when he went to stay with the Rector from Saturday till Monday (laughter). To all these, Haslemere had been a sort of foster-mother, and besides taking care of her own children, which he dared say were troublesome enough (laughter), she undertook the care—it was forced upon her, he supposed—of all these parishes. To that church they brought their children to be christened, to that church they came to be married, and in the churchyard they found their last resting-place. They might look in the Parish Registers, which dated 300 years back, and their names appeared from the very first page to the last. Amongst the names they would find the

Shotters, who gave their name to Shottermill,' the Hoads, who made sickles, 200 years ago at 'Sicklemill,' the Courts of Thursley, who gave their name to 'Court's Hill,' the Simmons of Frensham, the Penfolds of Thursley, and many others. All this argued a community of feeling which he hoped would continue. Thursley, as they knew, had recently entered into a closer relationship with Haslemere. In the outlying part of Frensham, some 50 years ago, a church was built, and an ecclesiastical district assigned, called Shottermill, thanks entirely to the indomitable perseverance and tenacity of purpose of one family, and they were delighted to see that a survivor of that family was amongst them that evening. He still took an active interest in the public affairs of the locality, not to mention the county. Shottermill, in connection with some of the other parishes, had already the very good fortune to have a home which had been most admirably organised and most efficiently managed and superintended, under their friend the Rev. J. Wallace and his family. If there were any cases that they could not conveniently take or their arrangements did not cover, they would welcome them to any use they could make of their building, and that applied more or less to all the parishes, for they would be as welcome to the use as Haslemere, to anything they found convenient, and he thought that that would be the desire of the Nursing Association, as it was his own desire. As to the arrangements made with regard to the

OWNERSHIP OF THE BUILDING AND LAND,

his sisters and himself wished that it should be an absolutely free gift, and they wanted it to be out of their hands entirely, but at the same time they did not wish, at any rate, for the present, that it should come under the provision of the Charitable Trusts Act, and so he had not brought it under the supervision of the Charity Commissioners, because that might lead to difficulty in making any alteration to the rules or an extension of the original scheme. After a great deal of consultation with Mr. Lee Smith and Mr. Parker, who was a well-known authority on these subjects, they had devised a scheme which to a layman seemed complicated on paper, but which he was told would work well in practice. In the first place, the ground and building were conveyed to three trustees. Mr. Stewart Hodgson, Mr. W. H. Thomas, and Mr. Allen Chandler, had consented to act as trustees. They would be the legal owners, and were to permit the Nursing Association to occupy the premises unless otherwise directed. These trustees were, however, to be controlled by a body called appointers, who would direct the trustees what to do. These appointers had been practically nominated by the Nursing Association. They were Messrs. J. W. Watson, A. G. Parson, W. G. Deas, R. W. Winstanley, C. Whympster, Chas. G. Roberts, G. T. Redmayne, and L. Wigram. In mentioning Mr. Roberts, who was lying dangerously ill at the time, Mr. Penfold said it was hoping against hope that he would be able to serve. Continuing, he said the Appointers had been joined his sisters and himself, making 11 in all. The appointers had absolute control, and could direct the trustees to permit anyone to occupy or make use of the premises. As the buildings so completely overlooked their own house, his sisters and he could, during the few years that might remain to them, exercise a kind of veto on any use of the premises to which they might object, otherwise the majority were free. Although it was not desirable to have too large a number of appointers, the number was not limited, and other appointers from within or without the parish of Haslemere could at any time be added as occasion might require, or if they enlarged the scope of the work of the Association. That was a very rough outline of the scheme, omitting all details, but it was sufficient to give a general idea of it.

FITNESS OF THE BUILDING.

AS -to the building itself those who had inspected it would see that it was designed on the lines both of a Cottage Hospital and a Nurses Home, and if it was found desirable it could so be enlarged in either direction, as circumstance might by-and-by require, at comparatively moderate expense. As the building stood at present, it contained two wards with two beds in each, there were two sitting-rooms, and five or six bedrooms, one or more of which might be reserved for special cases, a bath-room, kitchen, scullery, and other offices. There was also a mortuary attached—which, by the way, he hoped would never be occupied—but cut off from all communication with other parts of the building. The sharp slope of the ground made the building somewhat awkward and inconvenient, and in some respects there were some things which he now thought should have been done in a different manner. But he would not enlarge on the defects which would be evident when the building was occupied ('No, no!'). In conclusion, he said, such as it was, however, he hoped it would be accepted in the spirit in

which it had been given, and on behalf of his sisters and himself he had great pleasure in handing to the chairman the document which vested him and his co-trustees in legal possession of the site and the building. He had the greater pleasure in doing that because it was in a sense restoring to them property which he hoped they would think had not been misused during the short time it had been out of their possession (applause).

The Chairman, in formally accepting the gift, said his difficulty now began. How was he, as their mouthpiece, to find words to thank their noble donor for the gift which he, on behalf of his sisters and himself, now placed in his hands? Mr. Penfold and he had been very intimate friends for over 25 years, and he could only say that in all the transactions he had had with him his whole idea was to see what good he could do to his present townspeople. The time when they first became acquainted was one fine morning when Haslemere was startled by the news that they were to have their drainage and water supply put in perfect order. It was a little startling, but they thought they could get over the matter without great expense. There were only four persons who were ready to put their shoulders to the wheel. They made themselves into a committee. They were Mr. Penfold, Mr. C. G. Roberts, whose illness he briefly alluded to with regret, the late Mr. Geo. Hesse and himself. They went thoroughly into the whole state of the town. It was the middle of July, and as they had to inspect sanitary arrangements it was not one of those things they would wish to repeat (laughter). He spoke of this because they received from Mr. Penfold a valuable plan on which they had based their work as a sanitary committee ever since. They had not, perhaps, done their work as well as it might be done. The work of Mr. Penfold, he continued, would always remain a lasting memorial of what a man could do when he set to work and knew his subject. He was always ready to give them every assistance since they had been formed into a committee. He was, unfortunately, not a member of the Parish Council, and they regretted his absence; but he had always been ready to give his assistance, and most valuable assistance it proved. That was the nature of the man. He would give them as good work as it was possible to have, and he would give it in a quiet and honest manner. This gift from Mr. Penfold and his sisters was one of the greatest possible value, and they ought not only to be thankful for it, but also thankful for the extremely modest manner in which it had been given. They had it now in their hands to do everything they could to keep it going. He was happy to see, from his point of view, that there was no endowment to this building, for he had generally found that establishments that had endowments were rather inclined to work up to the standard of the endowment, and not put their shoulders to the wheel to make it better than the endowment. If they would only join with him and keep it going in a proper and efficient manner there was nothing that would show more to his friend Mr. Penfold that his gift was thoroughly appreciated. He would leave each one present to thank Mr. Penfold inwardly for his noble gift (hear, hear).

THANKS TO THE DONOR.

The Rev. G. H. Aitken, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Penfold, said what they were doing that right was a great event in the history of their town. It would be a great occasion if they were only celebrating the opening of such a building as stood on the hill, for it was a well-known thing that proper nursing was impossible in those 'narrow homes' in which the people too often lived. It was a pitiful sight to see the noisy children crowding round a sickbed when the only chance of comfort or recovery was in perfect quiet; but the thought of the patient transferred to the quiet wards with the nurses and the doctor and every convenience made their hearts rejoice. It had long been recognised that the duty of the Church of Christ, he used the words in their widest sense, was to care for the poor, and the opening of a Hotel-de-Dieu, as the French beautifully termed their hospitals, would be a most thankful and interesting occasion. True greatness, he imagined, seemed to lie always out of sight. And if he might say it in Mr. Penfold's presence, the true greatness of giving lay in the hearts of those who gave. They had probably met with others who had done what Mr. and the Misses Penfold had done—given while yet they lived and before possession of wealth was no longer of use. but he ventured to think that none of them had ever met with a gift more simple, more appropriate, or more characteristic than Mr. Penfold's (applause). He refused to have his name connected with the building. It was quietly done, and that was the best kind of giving. He had given of his best and of his heart, and in the building he had built on the hill he had left a part of himself—a lasting and living memorial to his parents and to his own heart in the town of Haslemere (hear, hear). The highest kind of giving was not to give, but to share, and he who gave himself with a gift was the best giver. Mr.

Penfold had put his heart and his life into his gift, and they must heartily thank him, and yet as he said this he knew that Mr. Penfold did not look for the thanks of men. He knew that his true reward lay forward, and he (the speaker) ventured to believe that in the great day when the angels were present, and rejoicing, all those who had given as he had given, would hear the Master's 'Well done.'

Mr. Chas Whympster seconded, and said the Nursing Association had been the idea of two ladies who by a most contagious enthusiasm drew a number of others to them, and from that small number a committee was formed. The moment that small committee was in real work Mr. Penfold was not slow to develop his plans Their vote of thanks seemed to him to be the beginning of a long voice of thanks ever-increasing in volume as the years went on. Year in and year out those who were having their pains and miseries alleviated in that beautiful cottage home were certain to feel real gratitude to the benevolent founder.—The vote was recorded with enthusiasm.—Mr. Penfold briefly acknowledged the meeting's thanks.

THE REPORT AND BALANCE-SHEET.

The report of the committee, which was read by Dr. Hutchinson, stated that two nurses had been working throughout the year and 61 patients had been nursed; of these 20 had required a nurse entirely to themselves for from one to six weeks, making a total of 48 weeks; 31 had been attended from one to three times a day, making the total number of visits 957. During 12 weeks of the year it had been necessary to employ a third nurse. The Nursing Home, which had been building during the year was now completed, and Mr. Penfold had handed over the building to the trustees. It was most complete in every respect, and in every way fitted for its intended use. The committee wished to place on record their deep sense of gratitude to Mr. Penfold for the generous provision he had made for the neighbourhood, and they, on their part, would do their utmost to make it and the working of the Association of the greatest possible use to those for whom it was intended. Such a building would need furniture, and although they had a fair sum in hand towards this expense, they would be glad to receive either donations in money or articles of furniture which might be of use in the Home.

The building had been conveyed to trustees, but its use was at all times to be controlled by a body of Managing Appointors, who had directed the trustees to permit its use by the Haslemere Nursing Association. The committee were glad to be able to report that after all the expenses had been met for the year 1897 there remained a balance in hand of £11 14s. 1d. It would be necessary, however, in view of the increased cost of maintaining the new Home, that additional help should be given. They confidently relied upon the generosity of the residents of Haslemere and the neighbourhood to provide any additional annual sum which might be required. The annual subscriptions to the end of December amounted to £99 6s. 1d., and the patients' payments to £56 3s. The expenditure amounted to £147 15s 7d. The committee had also received since the commencement of the new year the sum of £25 from the trustees of the parish charities appointed under the scheme of the Charity Commissioners. For this substantial assistance they had already recorded their thanks. The committee gratefully acknowledged the help given by Hrs. R. J. Hutchinson, the lady secretary. and by Mr. Redmayne, the hon. secretary of the Association, upon whom the chief work had fallen. They desired also to express their thanks to Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson for guaranteeing a supply of water to the hospital free of charge, and to Mr. J. Hutchinson jun. for the valuable offer of his services as hon. consulting surgeon.—The balance sheet showed that in addition to a small balance in hand, £91 8s. 4d. had been received from donations for furnishing.— Mr. T. P. Newman proposed the adoption of the report and balance-sheet.—Mr. A. Evans seconded, and the motion was carried with unanimity.— The Home Committee was re-elected, on the motion of Mr. A. Parson, seconded by Mr. L. Wigram.— Thanks were accorded the chairman, on the motion of Dr. Winstanley, seconded by Mr. J. Simmons.

Saturday, June 11th, is the date fixed for the formal opening of the Cottage Hospital by Lord Midleton; the hour will probably be about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Lawrence J. Baker, the High Sheriff of Surrey, had hoped to be present, but will be prevented by his engagements that day at Guildford.

West Surrey Times, June 18, 1898

HASLEMERE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

MR. PENFOLD'S MUNIFICENT GIFT.

Opening Ceremony by the Lord-Lieutenant.

In a manner befitting the munificence of the gift, the new Cottage Hospital and Nurses' Home, erected by Mr. J. W. Penfold and the Misses Penfold for Haslemere as a permanent memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, was on Saturday formally opened by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, Viscount Middleton, after a short dedication service. As stated in our description of the building last week, the hospital has been erected on the summit of Shepherd's Hill, and a more health-giving and invigorating site it would be impossible to find even in a neighbourhood so famous for its breezy heights. The attendance at Saturday's ceremony was eloquent testimony to the appreciation with which Mr. Penfold's gift has been received in the district, the large company present being distinctly representative of Haslemere and the surrounding villages. It was a lovely summer afternoon, and the proceedings were thus carried through under the happiest auspices. For some time before four o'clock the ladies and gentlemen who had been favoured with invitations took up their positions, and by the time Viscount Middleton arrived every available inch of space on the embankment facing the hospital was occupied, whilst on the gravelled drive a guard of honour of the headquarters companies of the 2nd V.B. the 'Queen's,' numbering between 50 and 60, was drawn up under the command of Captain the Hon. Arthur Brodrick Lieut. A. G. Brodrick was the other officer present. The Volunteers were accompanied by their fife and drum band, and the band of the Haslemere Working Men's Club was also in attendance. The Lord-Lieutenant, who was accompanied by the Right Hon. W. St. John Brodrick, M.P., was met at the station by Mr. W. H. Thomas, the chairman of the Nursing Association Committee, and was driven to the hospital in Mr. Hannan's carriage and pair. As his lordship, followed by the committee, walked up to the entrance to the hospital, he was greeted with cordial applause. The clergy and choir also took up their positions.

Amongst those present were Sir Robert Hunter. Mr. J. W. Penfold and the Misses Penfold, the Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Aitken, the Revs. G. H. Purdue (Shottermill), J. M. Jeakes (Greyslott), A. L. Keith and B. Hawker, the Rev. and Mrs. Hugh Morris, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Dr. and Mrs. Winstanley, Dr. and Mrs. Ardagh, Dr. R. J. Hutchinson and Mrs R. J. Hutchinson (lady secretary), Mr., Mrs. and the Misses Buckton, Mrs. C. G. Roberts and family, Mr. and Mrs. F A Roberts, Mr and Mrs Thomas and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watson and family, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. A. Parson, Mr. Chas. Whympier, Mr. G. T. Redmayne (hon. sec.), Mr. and Mrs. Harman, Mr. Biscombe Gardiner, Mr. J. King, C.C., Mr. Chas. Whympier, Miss Whympier, Mr. Colvill, Mr. B. L. Leesmith, Dr. Baker, Mr. and Mn. J. W. Meadows and the Misses Meadows, Mrs. Allen Chandler, the Misses Mason, Miss Window, the Misses Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Charman, Mr., Mn. and Miss Dakyns, Miss Hesse, Mrs. and the Misses Pitcairn, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine, Mrs. Pratten, the Misses Jackson, Mr. Walker, Miss Florence Harrison, Mr. Mosley, Mr. Walker, Mrs. Gale, Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Pannell, Mrs. Capes (Bramshott), Mrs. Stuchbury, Miss Scott (matron pro. tem.), Miss Johnson (matron designate), etc.

A short dedicatory service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. G. H. Aitken), and the Rev. Hugh Morris read the special Psalm cxxi. The hymn 'Thou to Whom the sick and dying' was sung, the accompaniment being played by Mr. Tyler, the organist.—After the service, Mr. J. W. Penfold, addressing Lord Middleton, said a few weeks ago he had the pleasure of handing to the trustees the deeds which vested in them that building and the ground on which it stood. The trustees—Messrs. A. Chandler, J. Stewart Hodgson and W. H. Thomas—had requested him to hand to his lordship a key with which to open the door and so give possession of the nursing institution.

A SHORT HISTORY.

Viscount Midleton took the key and unlocked the door. As he entered he was presented by Mr. Chas. Whympner with an address, which ran as follows:

' More than twenty years ago a system of nursing the poor in their own homes was started by the Rector of Haslemere, the Rev. S. Etheridge, and the work was for many years most ably and carefully carried on by Mrs. Etheridge. One nurse was provided, and, as the population of the place was much smaller than it is now, there was no difficulty in meeting all demands. In the autumn of 1896 it was thought by some that the management should be placed in the hands of a committee, and at a public meeting then held the present Nursing Association was started, and a committee appointed to carry on the work. The services of an additional nurse were then secured. Very shortly after the formation of the Association the chairman received a letter from Mr. Penfold, one of the oldest residents, offering to design and place at the disposal of the committee a building which should meet all the requirements of a cottage hospital and nursing home. The committee very gratefully appreciated and accepted his offer. The building is now completed, and it has been conveyed by deed to the trustees. It may briefly be described as capable of extension at any time; but at present it consists of two wards, for two, or in case of need, three beds each; a sitting-room for the matron, and five bedrooms (one of which could be used as an additional ward, if necessary), bath-room, most complete offices, and a mortuary. By the liberality of many friends, which the members of the committee most warmly appreciate, the building has been carefully and fully furnished, and the staff will now consist of a matron and two nurses, who will live upon the premises. Should additional help be at any time required, it will be at once available. The committee would today express their thankfulness to Mr. Penfold and his sisters, the donors of the Home, and also to those, who by generous subscriptions and donations, have provided the funds, not only for furnishing the building, but also for carrying on the work during the past year. The balance in hand at Christmas last was £11. They, would remind the residents of Haslemere that further help will now be necessary to meet the largely increased cost of maintaining the new hospital. They confidently ask for subscriptions, however small, from those who have not already subscribed, and for the continued help of those who have so kindly provided the income since the formation of the Association. They wish now to express their grateful appreciation of your lordship's well-known interest in all charitable institutions, and your kindness in coming amongst us today, and beg that your lordship will, after entering and parading through the building, declare it open for public use.'

AN INTERESTING SPEECH.

Viscount MIDLETON, having inspected the building, formally declared it open. In doing so he said he had never discharged any duty with greater pleasure, because if there was one object which carried out what her most gracious Majesty declared to be her wish with regard to any loyal remembrances which her subjects might think of putting up, on the conclusion of the sixtieth year of her glorious reign, that was emphatically one of those works of charity and mercy which she specially indicated as the particular memorial which she desired to see scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land. Well, the county of Surrey had not been behind other counties in that respect. They had at the present moment as a county memorial the Victorian Convalescent Home, which had been opened temporarily at Bognor, the temporary house being always full, and it would no doubt fill up with a larger number as soon as they could provide sufficient accommodation. But at Haslemere, Godalming, Tongham, Farnham and Pirbright—indeed he might almost name every small town and every village in the county—there existed local memorials of that great episode, which would hand down to those who came after them the remembrance of the longest and the best reign of which not only English history gave them any record, but also the history of every civilised nation on the face of the globe (hear, hear). At Haslemere they owed that Home, free of debt, transferred to trustees, to the munificence of three individuals, their own fellow-parishioners, into whose hearts Providence had put it thus to commemorate those who had gone before them, and thus to do honour to her Majesty and to her reign (hear, hear). He would remind them that it was not sufficient to have a Home of that kind, to have it properly furnished by the contributions of the locality, or to have excellent nurses at the disposal of the community, if the funds were not forthcoming to maintain that institution, and he need not tell them that those institutions were not maintained for nothing. At the Victorian Convalescent

Home, where they hoped to have 21 beds, he had gone carefully into the calculation, and did not think that even upon that scale they could put the expense down at much under £50 per bed during the year. In a similar Home they must calculate for a rather larger expenditure. But looking at Haslemere as it was now, and looking at it as he recollected it 30 or 40 years ago, he believed that not only Haslemere could, but that Haslemere would, do all that was required in that direction (applause). The population had grown. When he spent his childhood in that county, Haslemere was still a borough, and he believed it had the honour, though the population of the parish was far smaller than it was at present, of returning the late Lord Palmerston as its last and distinguished representative. Within the last 30 years the population of Haslemere had increased from about 940 to 1,260, an increase of 25 per cent. Changes had taken place from what Aubrey, the historian of the county, called 'gentile habitations,' i.e., gentlemen's houses, and, therefore, he did not think there ought to be any difficulty in adequate funds being raised from year to year, to make that institution a credit to the pariah in which it existed.

THE QUEEN'S REIGN.

Surely they were bound to make some sacrifice in recognition of the goodness of Providence for having granted them now through nearly 61 years the very best sovereign who ever sat upon the throne. Let them look at what her life had been, her devotion to duty, her sympathy with all the sorrows and participation in all the joys of the humblest of her fellow-subjects, at the interest which she displayed in every expedition which left their shores, and at the courtesy with which those were invariably received who came back from their kinsmen beyond the seas, having done honour to the name of Englishmen. All that had been done by the Queen, done under the most difficult conceivable circumstances, because now 37 years ago she was deprived of him who had been her constant stay, and with whom she had spent a happy married life, who was her constant counsellor, and who in every respect supported her in the earlier years of her reign. Since that time the Queen had spent her life alone, but she had spent it in the service of her people, and the heart of the nation had gone out to the widowed home as it probably never would have gone out had she not been bereft by Providence of that stay upon which she might have hoped to lean throughout her life (hear, hear). Let them look at the purity of her Court at the example she set to every Christian wife, mother and daughter throughout the kingdom, at her unwearied devotion to public service. No one who had not taken the trouble to ascertain what the Queen had to go through every day of her life was in the least aware of the sacrifices which were constantly demanded of her, and which were never asked for in vain. Speaking of the difference between the county of Surrey now and as he remembered it when the Queen ascended the throne, his lordship said he would ask anyone who had known the county for that period whether life had not been rendered infinitely more tolerable to the less fortunate members of the community. They had education brought free to the door of the humblest home, and they had in most districts a sound religious education combined with the secular education, which, to his mind, was worth little unless fortified by religion. They had a steady upward progress in the material conditions of the poor—the working men and working women of Surrey were better fed, better housed, better clothed and incomparably better paid than they were at the commencement of the reign. They had careers open to them which were not then before them. If they chose to exercise industry, sobriety and energy they could rise in the social scale, and there was hardly any position in life which was not open to them if they were capable of filling it. Those were all material advances in the life of a nation, and they had been coincident with great prosperity among all classes; but he did not know whether they had come home to any as nearly and as closely in the same manner as they had come to the humbler classes of the community. The cheapness of the necessities of life, the possibility of earning a steady and adequate livelihood were benefits far out-weighting any mere increase of income, or of comfort, or of general prosperity in the surroundings of those who had more money. It was in that way that the nation had gradually become more contented, more loyal, more capable of managing its own affairs both locally and political, more devoted to the sovereign and more determined to do their duty in that station of life unto which it had pleased God to call them. In conclusion, his lordship said he trusted that when their time came they might be able to look back, having followed the example of the Queen set, upon a state of things which might reflect not only credit upon the age in which they lived, but might be talked of by generations still to be born as the climax of everything that could be desired in the way of government in England, of which the Queen

had now for nearly 61 years been so constant and so bright an example (applause). His lordship then formally declared the building open for the purposes for which it was erected.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. BRODRICK, M.P., at the request of Mr. Thomas, proposed a vote of thanks to those who had supplied the funds for decorating and furnishing the Home. He said they could not conceal from themselves that those undertakings were not carried through without a great deal of effort and self-sacrifice, and he would suggest to all present that they should show their appreciation of those efforts in the most practical manner by contributing themselves to the support at the Home. Nothing would give him greater pleasure than to contribute, so far as he could, something to the furnishing and something also annually to the maintenance (hear, hear). He would also include in the vote of thanks the officers and men of the 2nd V.B. Royal West Surrey, who had come there in such force to show their appreciation of the work which was carried on there. He should like to congratulate them upon their smart and soldierlike appearance, and he would thank them also for that having arrived there they had shown a desire to make practical use of the Home, for he noticed that one had been taken somewhat ill, and had been removed, he had no doubt, to one of those comfortable beds which he had just inspected (laughter). Having given that example of their patriotism, he could assure them that if ever— which Heaven forbid—that country should be invaded, they might be quite certain that Haslemere would be a centre which would be strongly held, but near which the invader was almost certain to pass. It would depend, therefore, upon the Volunteers whether that Nursing Home was used for the relief of their own wounded or those of the enemy (laughter). He thought, as far as the War Office was concerned, thanks were due to those who had erected that Home for making that kindly provision on one of the most central positions in the south of England. The donations to the furnishing fund of that Home were about £212, and the probable cost of furnishing and decorating would be about £300, so that there was a deficiency of nearly £90, which he hoped the proceedings that day would go far to relieve. The subscriptions last year and patients' payments came to about £155, and the probable cost of nursing and working the hospital would be about £300, so that there was about £150 to be made up annually. He mentioned those facts, and was sure that those of them who could would desire to assist, and he hoped they would inform one of the officers of the Association what they could do to help.— The vote of thanks was carried.

Sir ROBT. HUNTER proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord-Lieutenant, and said that occasion was interesting from many points of view. It was interesting as marking the growth of that place, which was being rapidly converted from a small village into a busy country town. Twenty or thirty years ago a cottage hospital would have been a superfluity, and now it was a welcome and useful institution, and they had the Lord-Lieutenant of the county as her Majesty's representative to open it. The occasion was interesting from another point of view. It was possible that the Nursing Association would not have existed to have taken possession of that building had not the old endowed charities of Haslemere been reorganised in such a manner as to allow of a substantial contribution being made to the funds of the Association. That re-organisation was made possible through the existence of the County Council, and that ceremony that day was in some measure the product of that legislation, which he thought was the last public act of the great statesman whom they had all been lamenting and honouring so recently. There was still another point of interest which marked the progress in the healing arts. Institutions of that character, unknown before the Crimean War, were now recognised as of primary importance in curing disease. Mr. Penfold and his lordship had recognised the great importance of that young, but open ally of medical skill and knowledge. Once more that occasion was interesting as celebrating a form of public spirit which he had heard was more common on the other side of the Atlantic than in the British Isles, and which was deserving of the highest honour. Mr. Penfold had desired to confer a lasting benefit upon the place in which he and his forefathers for many generations had lived and worked. He had presented Haslemere with a gift which even from a pecuniary point of view was of great value, but, more important than that, he had presented it with a gift which was the result of labour and thought on his part (hear, hear). That Home would for generations afford the means of alleviating pain, of relieving distress, and even at saving life, and it would at the same time be a striking evidence of a warm-hearted and judicious desire to do something for the place in which the donor had lived, and which he loved. It was fitting that all honour

should be done to such a gift as that, and they were greatly obliged to Viscount Midleton for assisting them on that occasion (applause).

Mr. J. W. WATSON seconded, and said Lord Midleton knew that he represented something more than himself—he was not only their neighbour and the father of their member (than whom there was no harder working member in the House of Commons), but he was also the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and as such he, as it were, put the official seal upon their proceedings. By his presence there that day he believed his lordship desired to pay a personal compliment to the gentleman who had given them that building. For a very long time there had been Brodrick's at Peperharow, and for a very long time there had been Penfold's at Court's Hill, Thursley, and he (the speaker) could not doubt that his lordship's coming there that day was intended as a personal compliment to Mr. Penfold, a compliment which they, his friends and neighbours, knew he most richly deserved (applause).

The vote of thanks having been carried unanimously, Lord MIDLETON said their real thanks were due to Mr. Penfold and his sisters, and to those who had organised that opening, and who had collected a large portion of the sum necessary for the furnishing. He was sure they would persevere in well-doing until the Home had been put on a thoroughly sound financial basis, and made the blessing to the neighbourhood which it was intended by its donors that it should be (applause). He had already mentioned how many objects of that kind were springing up all over the county, and he thought that the next time he had to take part in an occasion of that kind he should only have to point to Haslemere as a model of what might be accomplished by self-sacrifice and good honest hard work (hear, hear).

It was announced that letters of regret at absence had been received from the Earl of Derby, the Rev. S. Etheridge, Mr. J. Stewart Hodgson, Mr. James Simmons, C.A., and Mr. Lewis Wigram. The proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem. Afterwards ticket-holders were allowed to inspect the building, and the general feeling of the visitors was one of admiration at the excellent provision which had been made. The wards and rooms were all bright and attractive, and their effect was not a little enhanced by the presence of flowers.

The Hospital Matrons

Miss Scott 1899

Miss Johnson 1899-1901

Helen Neve, Matron 1901*- Jan 1919

Helen Jane Neve (born Jane Helen Neve, in 1862, St Leonards on Sea, Sussex died 27 Jun 1938.)

Helen was Matron 1901-1919 approx. She was listed as matron in the 1901 & 1911 census.

The 1911 census shows the hospital had 5 wards and 10 nurse and domestic quarters, it listed 5 staff and 8 patients, the Matron Being Helen Jane Neve. The 1917 Nursing Register shows Helen at Haslemere Cottage Hospital.

Elizabeth Davenport, Matron Jan 1919-Jan 1923

(Elizabeth Mary Davenport born 1870, died 2 Aug 1961)

Prior to Haslemere Cottage Hospital she was Matron of Church Hill Military Hospital, Haslemere from 12th April 1917 - 27th January 1919. The building now called Peperham House is located opposite St Bartholmew's Church.

Elizabeth was the last Matron of the cottage hospital and is also shown residing at the new Haslemere Hospital, Church Rd 1925-1929

Telephone

The Cottage hospital was listed in the 1908-1920 telephone directories. The number was "Haslemere 31" (The 1908 Haslemere directory comprising of only 47 entries)

Hindhead ..	3a do. B. (Livery Stables)	Headley rd Grayshott
Grayshott .	19 CHAPMAN Lowry & Puttick, Ltd., Builders, Electrical Engineers	Crossways rd
Hindhead ..	4 COE J. A.	Moor ho
Haslemere .	7 COLLIER , Son & Sparkes, Estate Agts	Station approach
Haslemere .	31 COTTAGE Hospital	Haslemere
Haslemere .	8 COX E., Fishmonger & Poulterer ..	Market sq
Grayshott .	2 COXHEAD & Welch, Ironmongers ..	Headley rd
Hindhead ..	5 CRISP H., Hotel Proprietor	Thirlestane