

St. Vincent's Hospital.

Important Acquisition. New Clinical School.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

There was a large and representative gathering at the St. Vincent's Hospital on Sunday afternoon, when the hospital was declared a clinical school, and the new pathological wing was officially opened. The gathering took place on the beautifully-kept lawns. Upon the platform were Sir John Madden and members of the University Council, the Faculty of Medicine, and members of St. Vincent's Hospital, medical and surgical staffs, while directly in front of the platform sat the Reverend Mother Rectress and Mrs. Southall, after whom the new wing has been called.

DR. MURRAY MORTON.

Dr. Murray Morton, chairman of the medical staff, in opening the proceedings said that many of those present would, no doubt, remember the occasion of the opening of the new hospital. That was a memorable occasion, but perhaps the present occasion was even more memorable, for it denoted a step in the advancement of a great institution. Two years ago the Sisters of Charity had decided on a change of policy to enhance the usefulness of the hospital, and the clinical school was one of the results. There had been many difficulties to contend with in the negotiations towards the successful achievement, but these had all been overcome, and their efforts were crowned with success. Gratifying support had been given by the honorary medical staff. When the ideas were placed on a substantial and workable footing, there was the question of ways and means, but, fortunately, assistance had been found from the hands of Mrs. Southall. It was obvious that the students, in their training, needed the best possible facilities. No one would deny that there was room for improvement in the training of the medical students in Melbourne. With regard to the hospital itself, it was still the most beautiful. Dr. Syme, when he returned from a tour of the world,

publicly stated that he did not see a better hospital in the world, and he (the speaker) could, from his own ob-

servations when abroad, amply confirm that statement. They had in the St. Vincent's Hospital as capable a staff as could be found anywhere. One spirit actuated the whole staff, and that was to enhance the reputation the hospital had already achieved. The honorary staff had done their work cheerfully, and in the future he was sure they would go on doing more and more work, and making more and more sacrifices. On behalf of the medical staff, he wished publicly to thank the Mother Rectress and the Sisters of Charity for their ready acquiescence in every recommendation made by the honorary medical staff in regard to the equipment. (Applause.)

SIR JOHN MADDEN.

Sir John Madden, Chancellor of the University, in declaring the school open, said he saw before him that day an inspiring monument of humanity. It was most gratifying to find that each year the hospital returns showed a step farther in advance of the preceding year. Last year the finances were considerably in advance of those of the previous years. The expenditure was necessarily somewhat in advance of that of former years, but there was a very valuable quality, inasmuch as the expenditure was considerably less than the amounts received in the way of revenue. During last year, 1873 cases had been dealt with; that was 103 more than the previous year. There were 15,570 out-door patients treated last year, which was 2237 more than during the preceding year. If they put that side by side with the fact that the work in the last three or four years had been considerably more than during the period preceding it, they might well say to themselves that very great advance and success had, and is, being accomplished in that hospital. They had every reason that day to rejoice in the recognition of the hospital as a clinical school. The Mother Rectress, in her

characteristically capable and business-like manner, had approached the Melbourne University with the proposal that the hospital should be used as a clinical school within the University. She had taken a wide and broad view of the

clinical school within the University. She had taken a wide and broad view of the matter, and placed herself in the hands of the University. She asked them to demand what was necessary to make it a perfect institution for clinical teaching. The University at once accepted the substantial offer. They demanded that a new pathological school should be established and built in connection with the clinical teaching. That demand, though necessary, seemed a fairly stiff one, but it did not daunt the Mother Rectress in the least degree. Assistance was necessary, and the Mother Rectress found at her hands Mrs. John Southall, of Richmond. Just as the Mother Rectress had made no reservation when dealing with the University, so had Mrs. Southall made no reservation as to what she was willing to do. Mrs. Southall had practically said to build the hospital and send in the bill to her, and she would pay it. (Applause.) And the Mother Rectress had the business capacity to know a good offer and to accept it. (Laughter.) Mrs. Southall had done her part, and now St. Vincent's Hospital became a branch of the University, as far as clinical teaching was concerned. The good done was infinite to both humanity and science alike. While, previously, the University found a difficulty in providing a complete system of clinical teaching, all the great hospitals of the metropolis were now assuming the same attitude to the University as St. Vincent's. (Applause.) He would take the opportunity of meeting certain criticisms, or perhaps it would be better to call them misapprehensions. It had been stated in a newspaper a day or two ago that the St. Vincent's Hospital had been taking an unfair advantage in the matter of endeavouring to bring into their fold all the students that they possibly could, to the disadvantage of other hospitals. That, he was told, was not so. It was all a misapprehension. As a matter of fact, St. Vincent's Hospital had its full quota of students already. It did not hunt; it had them in its bag. (Laughter.) It had been said, also, that they would be provided gratis in St. Vincent's Hospital. That was not like the Mother Rectress—(laughter)—for her experience must have taught her that it was necessary that her woman's heart should be possessed of a little hardness. (Laughter.) The apprehension that the more distant hospitals would be at a disadvantage as compared with the Melbourne and St. Vincent Hospitals in the division of clinical students was

not founded in fact. It was suggested that the students would follow the examiner. That idea was not founded on fact. The University arrangements

on fact. The University arrangements precluded anything of the kind. There would be an equitable system of division of clinical students. The University might choose one of several ways, but, whatever it was, it would be an arrangement on an equitable basis. (Applause.) No hospital was thoroughly equipped that did not have an abundant supply of students acquiring experience in clinical teaching. He had great pleasure in declaring the school open. God would bless it, as He had heretofore blessed all that had come under the hands of those who managed and conducted that most capable institution. (Prolonged applause.)

TABLET UNVEILED.

Mrs. John Southall then unveiled the commemoration tablet of the new pathological wing, and declared the department open for clinical teaching. On behalf of the Sisters of Charity, she presented to Sir John Madden a souvenir golden key.

PROFESSOR ALLEN.

Professor Allen, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, congratulated the Rev. Mother Rectress, the Sisters of

Charity, and the medical, surgical, and nursing staffs on the recognition of the hospital as a clinical school within the University. (Applause.) It was difficult for even those who moved within to fully recognise the importance of a clinical school. There were at the present time 180 students working in the great hospitals of Melbourne. Roughly speaking, each medical man was in correspondence with 1000 people. The 180 stu-

dents now working in the hospitals of Melbourne would, before many years, be looking after the sick folk in a population of 150,000. That fact should bring home to them the enormous importance of the clinical school. The students not only went to all parts of Victoria, but they went to the sister States, and some travelled even further afield. Ever since its establishment in 1864, the medical school had to depend on its practical teaching in medicine and surgery upon the Melbourne Hospital. The school had gone on growing, and they now had more students than ever before, and further provision was absolutely necessary. Therefore, the University had recognised St. Vincent's Hospital. He hoped the day was not far distant when St. Vincent's Hospital of Sydney would be

cent's Hospital of Sydney would be recognised by the University of that State. (Applause.) It was unnecessary for him to speak at any length of the work the St. Vincent's Hospital would be doing in connection with clinical teaching. A great service would be rendered to the hospitals, to the students, to the patients, and to the entire community. The students who would be the medical men of the future would impart the benefit they derived to the community. (Applause.) The faculty of St. Vincent's Hospital congratulated the Mother Rectress and everybody in that most modern and capable hospital for that great acquisition. (Loud applause.)

A PRESENTATION.

A presentation was next made on behalf of the Mother Rectress to Mrs. John Southall. It took the form of a souvenir pendant and photograph of the south wing.

DR. McARTHUR.

Dr. A. Norman McArthur, senior gynaecologist to the hospital, moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Southall for her munificent donation. He referred to the characteristic action of the Mother Rectress in undertaking to provide a pathological department in connection with the St. Vincent's Hospital. The Mother Rectress was only able to go a certain distance. She could provide the ideas, but not the money. However, Mrs. Southall had come forward, and in a very liberal manner had given £1200. (Applause.) Mrs. Southall's liberality had been great in many ways in con-

nection with the St. Vincent Hospital. She had done something very worthy of a very worthy citizen, and on behalf of the medical staff, the Mother Rectress, and the Sisters of Charity, he thanked her very much indeed for that great gift. (Applause.) He hoped she would realise that, although his remarks were not of great length, nevertheless they were very grateful for her excellent gift. He would, without further ado, call for a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Southall.

Prolonged applause indicated how deeply all present appreciated the gift of Mrs. Southall.

HON. J. GAVAN DUFFY, K.S.G.

Mr. Duffy moved a vote of thanks to Sir John Madden. He referred

to Sir John Madden. He referred to the goodness of Sir John in being present. He also spoke in high terms of the efficiency of the St. Vincent's Hospital and the various staffs, and to the value of the recognition of the University. He appealed to all present to help in some way or other. They were not all Mrs. Southalls, but they could do something.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Sir John Madden, in returning thanks, also appealed to those present to help in some way or other. (Applause.)

Altogether the gathering was a notable one. After the addresses, refreshments were provided on the lawn.

Messrs. Pellegrini and Co. have removed to larger and more central premises, situated at 244 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (between General Post Office and St. Francis' Church), where they are showing the largest collection of Ecclesiastical Goods in Australia. They have considerably increased the stock of church vestments, imported from the leading factories of Europe, and made very light, so as to be suitable for the Australian climate. They have also unpacked a large selection of religious cards, and an assortment of vases, boxes, groups, and other ornaments, suitable for presents. Country orders will be promptly and carefully executed.