

are two items in three years' accounts which call for criticism; and the present regular sale of stock could cease with sound financial management.

UNDESIRABLE FEES.

One entry records a portion of the rental of the garden already referred to as £5 a year, and the other apparently records for the first time receipts, from the nurses' and probationers' fees, amounting to £80. These fees ought not to have been levied seeing that the size of the hospital, which contains less than 100 beds, is not sufficient to enable the nurses to be properly trained or certificated at the end of three years' work at the institution, so as to enable them to rank as trained and certificated nurses. This is another reason why what we have ventured to describe as a system of discreditable economy should be promptly abandoned, a point to which we specially direct the attention of the managing committee and of the governors. The managers ought to take up this matter without a moment's avoidable delay and reconsider the present financial policy with the object of putting the hospital on a better, sounder, and more modern basis.

It is, indeed, unthinkable that the county of Kent should longer remain without a modern, wisely administered, properly constructed, ample hospital at Maidstone, or that it should longer suffer from a discredit which, in the hospital sense, attaches to the town of Maidstone. The funds available amply justify a bold and forward policy, so we beg the inhabitants to rouse themselves and to bring pressure to bear, if necessary, upon the present committee, that the good name and best traditions of the men of Kent may be steadily upheld and rescued from the discredit with which both are threatened by the state of affairs we have criticised in this report.

THE MEN OF KENT AND A FORWARD POLICY.

A new and better policy must be adopted by the managers and governors of the West Kent General Hospital, in justice to the responsibilities, the wealth and collective prosperity of the men of Kent. Once the committee adopt a forward policy and provide Maidstone with an up-to-date and enlarged county hospital through a wisely conceived plan of reconstruction under competent expert advice, so as to prevent a repetition of the mistakes in construction which have characterised the additions to this hospital in the past, they may rely upon an increased income of sufficient amount to enable the West Kent General Hospital to be administered and maintained in the highest state of efficiency. This step, once taken, it should soon compare favourably with other county hospitals, instead of being, as at present, structurally and in matters of administration and business policy (though not in its medical and domestic management), so out of touch and behind the times in the requirements of modern science and hospital administration. Indeed, its present condition has fallen to so low a level as to make it

rank at the very bottom of the list of provincial hospitals of its type.

Wake up, men of Kent! Regard this hospital question as a sacred responsibility in which every man and woman should take an active part, and everything requisite to give you a county hospital of the first rank can be readily and speedily accomplished.

Public Pharmacists' Bohemian Concert.

THE Public Pharmacists' and Dispensers' Association had a reunion of members and their friends at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., last week. Mr. Jas. Hassall France, M.P.S., chairman of the Association, was in the chair, supported by Mr. T. H. W. Idris, J.P., president of the Association, Dr. Churchill Sibley, Dr. Jas. E. Coulson, Mr. R. W. Lindsey and Miss Lindsey, Mr. W. E. Kinsman, Mr. A. Howell, Mr. A. Jenkin, Mr. H. Hewitt, Mr. H. C. Thomas, and their parties, Mr. Geo. W. Gibson, hon. secretary, and party, Mr. A. J. Gibbons, Mr. P. Chaplin, Mr. R. Welford, and Mr. T. S. Goodall and Mrs. Goodall.

During an interval in the proceedings the President expressed on behalf of the members their hearty appreciation of all the good work the Council of the Association had done and was continuing to do to improve the status of the pharmacist engaged in institutional work, especially mentioning Mr. France, chairman, and the secretaries, Mr. Geo. W. Gibson and Mr. R. W. Lindsey. Mr. Idris emphasised the advantage of pharmacists keeping themselves up to date in modern methods of treatment. In this connection the last session's lectures and demonstrations was a sign that the Association's officers do all in their power to arrange the most practical and interesting subjects.

Mr. R. Welford, M.P.S., who is an institutional pharmacist of some thirty-five years' experience, and one of the original founders of the Association, proposed the health of the Chairman. Mr. France, in reply, mentioned the interesting fact that the Association is now working hard to obtain a representative, in the person of Mr. Herbert Skinner, on the Pharmaceutical Council of Great Britain. The election takes place on May 20, when it is hoped that the return of Mr. Skinner will be secured. It is interesting to note that of those who took part in the concert Dr. Coulson, Mr. Harry Graves, and Mr. Leonard Middleton are all engaged in institutional work.

Gifts and Bequests.

THE Chelsea Hospital for Women has received £100 from the late Mrs. Jane J. Singleton.

MR. SAMUEL MASSEY, of Manchester, has left the residue of his property for distribution between, among others, the Manchester Royal Infirmary, the Manchester Eye Hospital, and the Manchester Hospital for Diseases of the Throat and Chest.

MR. THOMAS EDWIN CROCKER, of Princes Gate, S.W., has left £500 each to the Tavistock (Devon) Cottage Hospital, King's College Hospital, the Wimbledon Cottage Hospital, and the Nelson Hospital, Merton. He empowered his trustees to apply a sum not exceeding £5,000 for such charitable purposes as they may see fit within five years following his decease.