

NEW EYE HOSPITAL FOR DELHI.

ON November, the 19th, Her Excellency the Countess of Reading, G.B.E., laid the foundation stone of the new charitable eye hospital at Daryaganj. A large number of distinguished guests, including some of the ruling Princes, assembled to witness the ceremony. Punctually at 4-15 Her Excellency arrived and was met by Dr. Shroff, the Eye Specialist, to whose efforts the new hospital is due, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, and other members of the committee. A bouquet of red roses was presented to Her Excellency by a small Indian boy, and then Dr. Shroff read a short resume of his work in Delhi. He said that ten years ago he commenced work in one room and soon discovered that there was great scope for eye work, and that a charitable eye hospital where the poor could obtain free treatment would meet a real need. He interested some of the citizens of Delhi in the scheme, and in 1918 the first eye hospital was opened on the top floor of a building in Burn Bastion Road. This had accommodation for nine in-patients but was soon found inadequate and the adjoining flat was taken. There was now room for twenty-one patients. Operative work was carried out, and there was a large out-patient attendance and an assistant was found necessary. Dr. Shroff pointed out that it was a matter for pride that not only men availed themselves of the hospital, but women in spite of social restrictions came for medical and surgical treatment. He remarked that the time had come for a larger hospital, and the one now proposed would provide accommodation for fifty patients. Dr. Shroff concluded by reading the list of donors and the names of the Trustees.

Her Excellency then laid the stone with a silver trowel and declared the stone to be well and truly laid.

Mr. Abbott, Chief Commissioner of Delhi, thanked Her Excellency for coming, and said the chief object of Dr. Shroff in inviting the guests was to get their money.

Her Excellency made a graceful little speech in which she expressed her sympathy with the cause and wished the hospital success. She said that blindness was the worst affliction that could befall the human being, never to see the sun or the faces of the ones you love. Her Excellency ended by saying she hoped the hospital would bring relief to many of the suffering poor and prove a blessing to the inhabitants of Delhi.

The band of the Boy Scouts was in attendance and played the National Anthem as Her Excellency left the enclosure.