

COMMEMORATION AT WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

The Dean of Westminster recently intimated to the authorities of Westminster Hospital his desire to make a present to the servants and every inmate of that institution, in commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the foundation of Westminster Abbey; and last week in conformity with the wish of the Dean, a decorated and well-lighted Christmas tree, six feet in height, occupied the centre of the table, accompanied right and left uniformly with lamps and jets:—

Across the bay window facing the Broad Sanctuary was a string of Chinese lanterns, under which was an inscription, "In commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the Foundation of Westminster Abbey." In the recess of the windows were deposited blankets and pillows for the relief of many little sufferers who, with broken limbs or otherwise, without such kindly arrangement, would have been unable to witness the pleasing and cheerful scene. The table was thickly covered with books, pictures, stockings, flannel and other petticoats, tea and sugar, work-boxes, pincushions, and, in fact, almost everything suitable for the patients or attendants, at the same time not forgetting the babies. The above-named articles were the presents to be distributed by the worthy Dean, who was assisted by Lady Augusta Stanley and Miss Rivas; the matron of the institution, Miss Eager introducing the recipients. The room was densely crowded, and among those present were many aged men and women. After a brief address from the very Rev. Dean the distribution of the presents was proceeded with, each recipient gracefully receiving the kind allotment. There was something for each, whether able to attend or not. After all had been supplied, the worthy Dean sent to each ward a tinted picture, under glass, of Westminster Abbey, in commemoration of the event, with the wish that they might be cared for. Accompanying the picture was a large packet of tea and sugar for each patient, with a book of poems written by Archdeacon Wordsworth. The evening's entertainment concluded with the singing of the National Anthem by the whole assemblage.

REV. DR. LEE AND FORMS OF PRAYER.—Another unsuccessful attempt has been made to check the innovations of Dr. Lee, minister of Old Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh. In 1859 the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland advised him to discontinue the use of written or printed forms of prayer which he had adopted. For a time he obeyed, but having renewed the objectionable practice, a motion was made before the Presbytery of Edinburgh for the appointment of a committee to investigate and to report upon the case.

Dr. Lee argued that the Church of Scotland began with a Liturgy, and that while John Knox's Book of Common Prayer was read for 70 or 80 years there is not upon record one act or one authoritative proceeding condemning read prayers. He distinguished between a Liturgy as being a form of prayer publicly authorised and enjoined upon all ministers and a form prepared by a minister for his own use and adapted to his own congregation. He concluded by vindicating the latest addition to his printed book the introduction of responses for the people. The Presbytery rejected the motion by 20 to 15.—*The Times*.