

the poor "Guinea" replied. "Old china! Lord have mercy, child, what's old china in comparison with open wounds!" What, indeed?

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MISS LANKESTER, Secretary of the National Health Society, has been appointed Secretary to the British Ladies' Committee for the Chicago Exhibition, of which Her Royal Highness Princess Christian is President. The great work which this lady has done for the Society is well known and so justly appreciated that great expectations are being formed as to the effect of her exertions in connection with the World's Fair of 1893.

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I HAVE before me a charming little illustrated account of the work and wants of the Middlesex Hospital, and feel sure few people will be able to refuse such a "taking" appeal, with its dainty little sketches of airy Wards—kindly Nurses—and leafy garden under the spreading trees, to which the patients have been carried in their beds; especially those who know the admirable manner in which every department of the place is conducted. There is no Hospital in London where the nursing of the sick is more *thoroughly* done, or where the regulations affecting the comfort and well-being of the Nurses is more carefully considered. The Sisters and Staff Nurses remain in its service for years, and there is no surer sign that things are satisfactory. The Lady Superintendent does nothing by deputy, but is to be met in the Wards, personally superintending every detail of her department, at all hours of the day—and often at night. Vicarious supervision would not be tolerated at the Middlesex for a moment. All the fees paid by lady pupils are invested for Nurses' pensions, and not grasped by the Committee to pay current expenses, and no Nurse with less than five years' experience is permitted to join the Private Nursing Staff. These are all vital points, and should inspire the public with perfect confidence in the authorities of this valuable Institution.

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THE Middlesex Hospital has undoubtedly a large share in the beneficent work of relief in the Metropolis. It was founded in a very humble way in the year 1745 "for sick and lame patients" at a time when no other Hospital existed in the now crowded neighbourhoods of Marylebone,

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St. Pancras, and Soho, and the need for it was immediately seen in the large number of patients who crowded to its doors. Since the day of its opening, the patients have steadily increased in number, and last year no less than forty-one thousand nine hundred of the sick and suffering found refuge and relief within its walls. It may safely be computed that the total number of persons relieved since the foundation of the Hospital amounts to about three millions. The Hospital has from time to time been enlarged, to enable it to deal adequately with this enormous mass of suffering, and it now contains three hundred and seven beds. Of these, one hundred and eighteen are for medical, and one hundred and thirty-eight for surgical cases; thirty-four for cancer, and seventeen for special cases. The number of in-patients treated last year was three thousand one hundred and nine, of whom two thousand five hundred and eleven were discharged cured or relieved.

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THE Cancer Wards are a distinguishing feature of the Institution. They were founded in 1792 by the late Samuel Whitbread. The cases admitted are usually of the most helpless and hopeless character; but the skilful, gentle nursing and excellent food so far relieves their terrible sufferings that their lives are in many cases prolonged. Once admitted, no patient leaves the Cancer Wards save at his or her own desire, and, being freed from the constant anxiety of seeking another refuge, they are enabled to spend their last days in comparative comfort, and pass away in peace. The cost of these Wards is very large as compared with that of the General Wards. The income from the endowment does not nearly cover the expense of the Wards, and the balance has to be made up from the General Fund, on which it constitutes a heavy tax. I should recommend anyone with money to bestow to help this most deserving Hospital. They will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that their money is well spent.

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THE following letter appeared last Monday in *The Pall Mall Gazette*, and is so characteristic that it well deserves to be reprinted here: "Mr. Burdett, in his letter to you of yesterday's date, disputes the accuracy of your remark that 'he had been the consistent champion and palliator of the blind and fatal obscurantism on the part of Hospital officials in London.' Be that as it may, he cannot deny that, at least, he defended with much zeal the managers of the Hospital at London-on-Sea. The facts are these: Some time ago I pointed out to the Committee of Management many defects in the building, and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)