

## Grosvenor Hospital.

Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 11th, 1892, at St. Peter's Institute, Buckingham Palace Road.

LORD LATHOM took the chair.

Mr. A. J. RAM (hon. treasurer), My lords, ladies, and gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in coming before you once more as the Treasurer of this Hospital, and in presenting the Report now before you, which I presume you have read from one end to the other, and therefore I move that the reading of it now be omitted. I would, however, call your attention to one or two paragraphs contained therein: "The past year has been one of singular prosperity and success, so far as the internal operations of the Hospital are concerned." This is certainly true, for we have had a great number of successes and an extraordinary small number of those unfortunate misadventures which must occur wherever critical diseases are treated to the extent they are in our Hospital. "In the financial point of view it has been equally unfortunate." This state of things is partly due to the recent enlargement of the Hospital and the consequent increase in expenditure. I desire to point out that this enlargement was necessary, for our accommodation was and even now is, limited. Speaking for myself and colleagues, however, we hope that this Hospital will always remain small, and I think the opinion of the majority of people leans this way. Formerly, we had not sufficient scope to perform the operations, and for many of the daily duties necessary when attending the sick. The house adjoining us was to let, and we seized this opportunity of becoming possessed of it, knowing full well that such a chance might not occur again. The increased

number of beds has involved us in debt; but I hope our friends will respond to the efforts we have made to improve the accommodation for patients. During the past year we have lost by death a great many who had been very good friends to the Hospital, and we have not found it possible to induce those who represent them to become subscribers. Others have been bound through causes we can sympathise with to reduce their support, and others again have diverted their money to more sensational organisations. "The large occasional donations which from time to time make up what is wanting in the regular subscriptions to Hospitals, have no doubt to a large extent been diverted to the schemes of General Booth and his Salvation Army." Ladies and gentlemen—without wishing to say one word against General Booth, who seems to be very popular just now in the House of Commons, I think it is much to be deplored that his work should have the effect of injuring the good work done by Hospitals. I daresay that all here have been the recipients lately of what is nothing more nor less than a begging letter. We all hate begging, but some of us have to do it. Many whom I thus bored have sent us an answer cheerfully, but many others have sent no answer at all, probably they were too much cut up about our distress. Some to whom I sent post-cards returned them at the cost of one penny. I would rather they had kept the card and sent the penny. Some sent to say they would double their subscription, or increase it by £10 or by £5; and one lady anonymously sent £50 in banknotes. (Cheers.) I do not know if she is present, but certainly she and all our helpers have our best thanks. I trust these facts will stimulate others to become supporters, for unless we raise our funds we shall be obliged to close some of the beds, and everyone knowing the work we do would surely wish to avert such

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