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THE

No. 219.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9th, 1892.

VOL. 8.

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Editorial.

A CHARITY BOOM. -

BOUT two months ago two announcements were made, on such notoriously unreliable authority, that probably no one was surprised that neither proved to be correct. It was stated that the Lords' Select Committee would make their Report upon their Hospitals' Inquiry when Parliament met after Easter, and that a book referring to Hospitals, and designed to arouse public interest in these Charities, would be produced as an Easter egg, for their benefit. Easter has gone, and Whitsuntide has come, and the Lords' Committee have not produced their long-looked-for verdict, although some conclusions attributed to them are leaking out in the public Press.

As for the Easter egg, it has been laid at last, but, naturally, after so long a period, it is somewhat addled. We should not, indeed, have referred to it in this column were it not that the circumstances of its inception and production furnish an excellent example of Pumblechookian charity. It appears that, with much show of secrecy, the Secretaries of a number of Hospitals which are chronically indigent, were called together, and the suggestion made and adopted that a novel advertisement of the needs of our voluntary Hospitals would be secured by means of a book to be written for that special purpose. But to publish a book is one thing, and to get the public to purchase it, is quite another matter. So

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