

The Children's Hospital,
GREAT ORMOND STREET.

THE fortieth annual meeting of the Committee of Management of the Hospital for Sick Children was held in one of the wards of the new wing of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, on Tuesday, May 31. The Duke of Fife, President, took the chair. Amongst those present were the Viscount Gort, Mr. Arthur Lucas, Mr. John Murray, the Hon. Mr. Justice Kekewich, the Hon. Spencer Hylton Jolliffe, Dr. Sturges, Mr. Edmund Owen, Mrs. Cooper, Miss Hicks, Miss K. H. Close, The Hon. Mrs. Eason Wilkinson, Miss Gregory, Mr. C. D. Kemp-Welch, Mr. John H. Morgan, Mr. T. Buxton Morrish, Mr. Hugh L. Arbuthnot, Mr. C. H. Russell, Mr. A. C. Norman, Sir Cameron Gull, Bart., Mr. Adrian Hope (Secretary).

The first part of the meeting was taken up with the proceedings of the General Court, of which the ten Resolutions were carried. The notice convening the Special Court of Governors was then read.

Mr. ARTHUR LUCAS (Chairman of the Committee): My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen: This Hospital tries to meet all demands made upon its resources. If only a slight case is brought to our doors, the child is treated as an out-patient; if more severe, and we have room, it is at once admitted upstairs. Of course restrictions are laid upon those suffering from typhoid fever or diphtheria; but I might mention that infectious diseases arising in the Wards are treated separately in an isolated wing of the Hospital. You will have noticed on the in-patients and out-patients' letters, rules to the effect that the parents should bring their children on certain days to see the Physicians, and on other days to see the

Surgeons. That is all well, perhaps; but patients constantly come without any letters at all, and of course we have not dismissed them. The result of this is curious. Some of our subscribers and governors complain to us that they are never asked for letters, that they have no privileges, and that consequently they will transfer their subscriptions to those Institutions which require them more than we. So forcibly was this brought before us, that we felt it necessary to do something. We resolved to try to do away with the system of letters altogether; but before taking such a step we sent round, as many here no doubt know, a number of circulars, stating our position, and what we thought advisable. At the same time, however, we invited criticism. About two thousand circulars were sent out, and we received about thirteen per cent. of very interesting replies. Some Governors recommended the total abolition of letters; others made various suggestions more or less practical; but we were warned by those who were connected with Institutions that had done away with the system of letters that it would tend to injure the Hospital in this way: The subscribers who felt they had no privilege would leave off subscribing. So after carefully weighing the matter, we have thought it better to continue the system, but if possible simplify the working of it. When the patient is brought to the Hospital, of course at fixed times, he will be at once seen by a medical officer (either a Physician or Surgeon), and if thought necessary will be admitted into the Wards. In short, the distinction between those holding in-patients and out-patients' letters will be done away with. There will be a substitution of one for two letters; the advantages of which will be simplicity of working, for it will save the parents much trouble, when they come to this Hospital in great straits with their little ones, as they

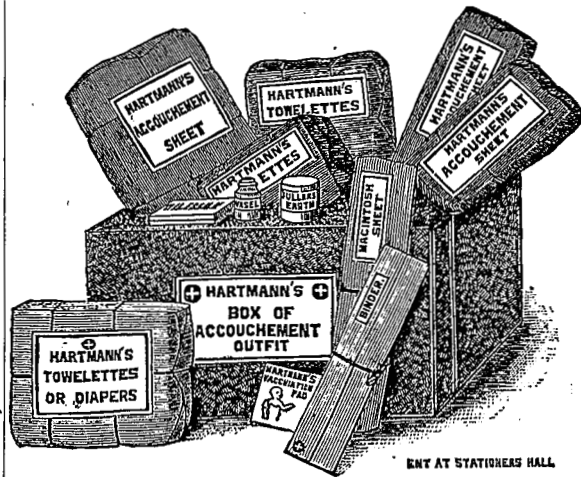
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