

medical charity, it would bring about the gradual organisation of medical charity in London.

"That the proposed board should be representative of the medical charities is right enough, and there appears to be nothing unworkable in the plan, but it must be remembered that any such board must command the confidence, not only of the general public, but also of the medical profession—alike of those who are directly connected with the Hospitals or Dispensaries as Physicians or Surgeons—and also of the great body of general practitioners. The scheme appears to propose a degree of representation of the medical profession which would be clearly deficient. It will probably be urged also in other quarters that the general lay public would be inadequately represented by the single member nominated by the London County Council, and that the board should be strengthened by the addition of experts in the questions of charitable relief. Suggestions on this head might be drawn from the Paris Board of Supervision, and should be fully considered before any step is taken to mould the new board into permanent shape. It would be better also if the new body were to be established under Act of Parliament, instead of, as is suggested, by Charter. The discussion precedent to the carrying of an Act of Parliament would clear away much misunderstanding and jealousy, and by it those who are most interested in Hospitals and Dispensaries would educate themselves as to what was and what was not really desirable and feasible. We are setting a Hospital policy for the future on voluntary lines. We have to determine the nature and conditions of that policy far more clearly than has yet been generally done."

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OUR "Up-to-date" contemporary, *The Charity Record*, has a word on The London Hospital Question, which is significant. I append it below, and heartily endorse its sentiments, with the exception of a compulsory eight hours' day.

"As our readers are well aware, from the full and special reports given only by *The Charity Record*, the London Hospital was the bone of contention during the inquiry; and on this matter their lordships are inconsistent and speak with two voices. If this is, as we suppose, because they are anxious not to injure an old, a noble, and an indispensable Charity, we may excuse them, although, at the same time, we believe it would have been better and wiser to have been consistent. They say the Hospital is doing a great work for the poor—which no one doubts—and that it is deserving of support. They also say—not exactly in these words—the 'governing' board are to blame, because they did not govern, but allowed the Institution to be controlled by the matron. They say that in their opinion the charges respecting the treatment of the Nurses were not proved, while, at the same time, they say the Nurses should be better treated, and almost use our words as to their food, pay, and desirability of only eight hours' work. With those who have so bravely taken up the cause of the Nurses we rejoice that in the attempt to save the Hospital, the Nurses are not lost. And really it matters little that there is no recognition of the efforts of those who through good and through evil report have championed the Nurses, when we have the solid fact that as a result of those efforts the Nurses' pay, position, and prospects are being gradually improved."

THE opinion of the same journal *re* the Hospitals Association is also worthy of note:—

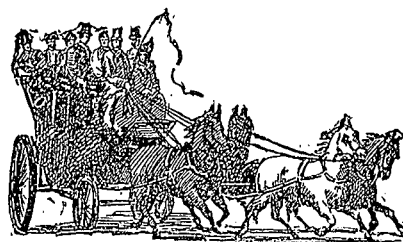
"At the recent annual meeting of the Hospitals Association a somewhat remarkable state of things was revealed. The Committee did not present a financial statement of any

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kind, thus setting a doubtful example to the various bodies they are supposed to represent. This is an omission to which we have had to call attention before. Their report, which was lengthy, if not wordy in the extreme, stated 'the energies of the Committee are now being directed to the question of the rating of Hospitals,' with the object of securing exemption. Now, in view of the fact that in these columns we have in the best interests of the charities more than once condemned the proposal to exempt Hospital property from taxation, on the ground that such a measure must inevitably lead to State control, or supervision, it is satisfactory to find that Lord SANDHURST, although he took the chair at the meeting in question, does not agree with the Hospital Association's efforts in this direction. A higher authority on the subject could scarcely be found than Lord SANDHURST, who, besides devoting his time to the work of London Hospitals, has given much of his leisure, visiting the principal medical institutions of both hemispheres, and, to use his own expression, 'has thought of little else.' But strange to say—and yet not strange, for it is on a par with other doings of the Association—he was, against his wish, placed on the Committee to promote the Rating Exemption Bill. Of course he finds himself unable to accept the position, not approving of the objects in view. 'If you pass such a measure,' says his lordship, 'it will be the first step towards the introduction of the rate-paid official into your Hospitals; and if the Bill ever comes before the House of Lords I shall have to oppose it. The Hospitals' Committee, upon which I have been sitting, came to the unanimous opinion that the system of administration in the general Hospitals of London is very good, and they would be extremely sorry to see the system interfered with, because the general rivalry among the different institutions tends to their medical and administrative efficiency.' As in other matters so in this of rating, the Hospitals Association have been condemned out of their own mouth, and we can only hope that if they still persist in espousing the cause of exemption, the efforts of their Chairman, and other opponents, will be too much for them." S.G.

Notes and News.

TEMPTED by the promising appearance of the sky, and the recollection of my last year's much-enjoyed drive, I took the advantage of a fine day and once more gloried in "coaching in Epping Forest."



There are four distinct routes from which to choose, and having already been the Waltham round, I took this opportunity to visit the quaint old town of Epping. While journeying thither, I was delighted with the many and varied views and places of note by which we passed; from the Connaught Waters of present-day fame, we are carried back to a scene of the time of Queen Boadicea, in the fact that the "Ambresbury Banks" (which we passed *en route*), are believed to be the

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