

London Hospital Court.

THE PRIVATE NURSING SYSTEM QUESTIONED.

A DISMISSED PROBATIONER.

A Quarterly and Special General Court of the Governors of the London Hospital was held on Wednesday (1st March), in the Committee room of the Hospital. Mr. J. H. Buxton, Treasurer, presided; and among those present were Lord Sandhurst, Mr. Spencer Charrington, M.P., Col. Trench, Mr. Thomas F. Buxton, Mr. J. H. Hale, Mr. Jesser Coope, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, and Mr. Robert Hunter. The advertisement calling the meeting, and the minutes of the last Court having been read, and the latter confirmed,

The SECRETARY submitted the quarterly report of the House Committee. It stated that Mr. E. M. Ind had resigned his position as chairman of the House Committee, and that Mr. J. H. Hale had been appointed in his stead. On the 3rd of January the House Governor reported that two cases of small-pox had occurred in George Ward, and that after consultation with the medical officers, it had been decided to close and thoroughly disinfect this ward. This was efficiently done and the Committee were glad to report that there had been no further outbreak since the re-occupation of the ward on the 24th of January. There had been a very large number of infectious cases brought to the hospital during the past three months, and more especially was this the case during the early weeks in January; but so great had been the care taken that none of the diseases so brought in the first instance into the Hospital had been imported into the wards beyond the case of small-pox in George. On January 10th a summary of the patients treated during the year 1892 was submitted and examined by the Committee. This showed that the total number of patients admitted to the Hospital during that year was 9,409, which, with the number 661 remaining in the wards in January 1st of that year, made the total number of in-patients during the year 10,070. The total number of out-patients was 112,962, of whom 25,726 attended with letters of recommendation from governors and subscribers, and went through a systematic treatment in the out-patient department. There were 2,517 children of not more than 12 years of age received into the wards, while the number of Hebrew patients under treatment during the year, chiefly in special wards allotted for their use, was 884. This showed an increase in the number of in-patients treated over the number in 1891 amounting to 612; and it was felt that this readily accounted for the increase which the dispenser's report showed that there had been during the year of £243 in the expenditure in his department. The Committee had decided to allow 2s. 6d. a week for washing to each Nurse, which would involve an extra expense of £1,500 a year. Some trouble had been caused by a late Probationer of the Hospital, Miss Mary Fisher, who had passed through her year as a Probationer, but after repeated trials in various wards as a Nurse, during her second year, was reported by the Matron to the Committee as not being sufficiently trustworthy to be allowed to complete her full time for securing the London Hospital certificate. Miss Fisher having appealed to the House Governor against this decision of the Matron, her case was brought before the Committee and most carefully gone into in all its details. Sisters with whom she had worked

The NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

appeared at her request before the Committee, and after hearing them it was decided to uphold the decision of the Matron. A fortnight afterwards a printed letter, dated December the 19th, from Mary E. M. Fisher, was submitted to the Committee, and distributed among the members present, and it was agreed that there was no reason for re-opening the consideration of the question, which had been very carefully and very deliberately decided on. Again, on the 10th of January, one of the members of the Committee submitted a letter, enclosing a proposed testimonial to Miss Fisher, which the Chairman was asked to sign, but as the proposal received no seconder, the matter was then allowed to drop. Reference was also made in the report to the legacies received during the quarter, and also to the fact that the fourth quinquennial appeal for funds was now being made.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said: I venture to say that such a report of work done has never been laid before the governors of any Hospital in England before (applause). Perhaps it was rather long, but if you have noted the facts that have been recorded in that report, you will agree with me in what I have said. One sentence which passed in half-a-second told you that at one moment there were in the wards of this Hospital, although one ward was closed owing to scarlet fever, 706 in-patients. Nobody but those who sit every week round this table, and who are familiar with the work, knows what that means. The tremendous pressure put on every department, whether it be that of the nurses, the house-surgeons, and of the house-physicians, or that of the kitchen and of the laundry, is only known inside the Hospital. Last year there were, as in-patients, 2,517 children from the age of about four days upwards, many of them in for very severe operations; and I venture to think that there are very few people in London who know that the London Hospital is a children's Hospital, to the extent of 2,517 in-patients in the course of the year. Another point which I would direct your attention to for a moment is that of the discussion which many of you have been aware of on the subject of doing the laundry work for the Nurses. This discussion has at last ended in the Committee agreeing, since we met you before, to undertake that work for the Nurses, or rather the whole of it instead of a part, and we may inform you that that will cost half-a-crown a week per Nurse. You will easily calculate that that costs in the year about £1,500. While speaking of the Nurses, I would just say that one paragraph in our report was interesting to me, and perhaps to you, namely, that when the pressure upon the Nurses was unusually heavy in this last quarter, the advantage was signally found, as it often has been found before of having a staff of private Nurses. I have a very local matter which I want to mention to you. About ten years ago Mr. George Moore left to us a legacy of £2,000, with a clause in his will that it was to be spent on the permanent good of the charity. This, after much discussion, was expended under an agreement with the Whitechapel Board of Works by which their very noisy pavement outside was to be taken up because they said it would be ten or twelve years before they could be obliged to take it up. The pavement was taken up and a wood pavement was put down, we paying £2,000 by a series of instalments to the Board. The last instalment was paid a week or two ago, and, therefore, we now rely upon the Whitechapel Board of Works to keep up the wood pavement, which it was their intention to lay down at the end of ten years. I have nothing further to say to you, except to emphasise what was the

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)