

The Hospital World.

A RECORD OF HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTION NEWS AND WORK.

No. 44.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1893.

VOL. III.

Van Houten's PURE. SOLUBLE. EASILY DIGESTED. Cocoa.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL says:—

"In flavour it is **perfect** and it is **so pure** and **well prepared.**"

"May with great advantage be **largely used** in **public Institutions** as well as in **private families.**"

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Editorial.

HOSPITAL DEFENCE.—I.

A MATTER which, at this present moment, is arousing very considerable public interest, and which is alluded to in another column this week, has raised important questions concerning the ability of Hospitals to defend themselves from "attack." We would venture to state, what might seem to be a paradox, but which we believe may be accepted as an aphorism, that if Hospitals made no defence there would be no "attacks." By this we mean that if, when a charge of any sort or description were made against a Hospital, its Committee would, instead of denying everything said against them, immediately and publicly demand an inquiry, by independent persons, into the truth or falsity of the charge, the greatest

benefit would undoubtedly accrue to the Hospital; in many cases, the antagonist would disappear; the Institution would have gained an excellent advertisement, and it would probably be some time before it was "attacked" again. It might be urged, with some force, that Charitable Institutions should, like Cæsar's wife, be beyond suspicion; but, as their managers are human, errors and mistakes are almost inevitable. But when they occur, it is for the common benefit that they should speedily be corrected, and certainly no one should be more grateful to any critic who will expose a fault in Hospital management, than the Committee of the Institution, who act as trustees for the public in their administration of charitable funds. In the rare cases, therefore, in which a serious charge would be substantiated after a public inquiry, reforms would be immediately obtained, and the Committee would gain general approval, and their Institution increased public confidence, by the good faith exhibited in the matter. Committees should realise that those who support our Hospitals do so for the benefit of the poor and needy, and not to uphold the personal vanity and *amour propre* of those who have undertaken to dispense their charity.

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