

(hon. sec.), Mr. E. Davis Gale (treasurer), Captain Murton, Mr. W. F. Mayoss, Mr. T. Isted, Mr. Hopcroft, Mrs. Murton, Mrs. A. Andrews, Miss Devenish, Mrs. Scott, Miss Robertson, &c.—Apologies for non-attendance were announced from the Rev. T. W. Fair (Rector of Freemantle) and Mr. J. McLaughlin.—The Hon. Secretary read the following:—“The Committee present herewith their ninth annual report of the Institution. It will be found that the working expenses of the past year have been considerably less than in former years, and that subscriptions and donations remain much as heretofore. Twenty-seven in-patients have been treated during the past year, all of whom, with the exception of three cases which ended fatally, have been discharged cured or improved. 596 out-patients were treated, of which 263 were dental cases, the latter being the largest number ever yet treated. The committee beg to tender their hearty thanks to their hon. medical officers and hon. surgeon dentist, and to all their subscribers and friends.—The accounts showed a balance in the bank of £109 17s. 6d., and in the hands of the Treasurer of £12 5s. 9d. — The Chairman having remarked that the Hospital appeared to be in a very flourishing condition, General RUSSELL moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. HOPCROFT, and carried unanimously.

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THE grievances of Hospital Nurses have been figuring prominently of late in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and if a tithe of the complaints is well founded, says the *Nottingham Express*, a reform of the hospital system is urgently needed. It is not by any means the first time that the case of the Nurses has been put forward, and their statements will not be new to anyone who has any acquaintance with hospital life. Long hours, overwork, and insufficiency of food are the chief causes of complaint. We can understand perfectly the plea of the authorities that they do not wish their wards to be encumbered with Nurses who are afraid of hard work, or are of delicate constitutions. Some little time ago it was, so to speak, fashionable for ladies who wanted a new sensation and fresh interest in life to turn to amateur nursing, with the result that many applied for admission to the hospitals who were obviously unfitted for the duties, and grew tired of their philanthropy as soon as they found out what work it entailed. We may give the doctors credit for having been eminently successful in ridding themselves of such encumbrances. But

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why, when they have found the material they are in search of, they should work their Nurses to death and half starve them in the bargain, passes comprehension, especially when many have paid very considerable premiums to obtain admission. Such a policy is simply decreasing the number of those who would be willing to devote themselves to the profession at a time when all the cry is that the hospital staffs are inadequate for their work. We do not suppose that all hospitals are equally to blame in this respect, but when hospitals and infirmaries up and down the country acquire a reputation for bad diet and long hours by no means confined to the towns in which they are situate, it is time that a protest was raised. Public opinion ought to make itself felt on the conduct of hospital authorities if it is harsh and unfeeling, and more so because the hospitals are public institutions, dependent on the public for their very existence.

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A GOOD many people are asking whether it is worth while to keep King's College Hospital going at all in the face of the bankrupt condition which it has reached. Our influential contemporary, the *Medical Times*, last week, voiced some of the questions which are being freely asked on this subject. It is undeniable that King's College and its adjunct the Hospital are under almost exclusively clerical control, and Englishmen do not believe in the business abilities of the clergy as a class. Our contemporary says:—"The doleful story which was told by the Duke of Cambridge last week, at the meeting held at Grosvenor House, to obtain additional funds for King's College Hospital, ought to lead to a public enquiry to ascertain whether that great public charity is being managed in a satisfactory manner. His Royal Highness stated that the funds at the present time are very low, there is a debt of six thousand pounds owing to the bankers and that the legacies (which ought to be invested) are exhausted. Instead of incurring liabilities to bankers and making these special appeals, I venture to suggest that the Hospital committee should practice economy and cut down expenses. I have been at some pains lately to enquire into the administration of the out-patient department at King's and I have no hesitation in saying that a great saving could be effected if a proper system were adopted to exclude persons from imposing on the charity who are able to pay for medical advice. The committee should remember that the charitable subscribe to Hospitals for the purpose of relieving the sick poor, and to the poor, in the out-patient department especially,

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