

as a capital sum which would be ample to erect, and partly endow, such a Convalescent Home, thus giving both male and female patients a chance of speedy and permanent restoration to health. An important addition had been made to the Hospital in the erection of new nurses' and servants' dining-rooms, these adding much to the comfort of the staff. The vacant land belonging to the Hospital would be laid out as a recreation ground for the patients as soon as the present temporary tenancy expired in September. This was being done at the expense of the president. As in past years much valuable work had been willingly undertaken by the ladies. This indispensable co-operation is highly valued. Thanks were accorded to the Minnehaha Minstrels for the sum of £140 which had been received from them as the result of one of their performances on behalf of the institution, and also to the Workpeople's Fund Committee whose efforts on behalf of the institution resulted in an addition to the funds of £429 os. 10d. The balance-sheet showed a sum owing to the bank of £737.

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The Chairman moved a resolution to the effect that the report and balance sheet be adopted, and that the Institution merited a larger share of public support than it had hitherto received. He mentioned that Mr. James Jardine, the president of the Hospital, had written stating his deep regret that he could not be present at the annual meeting, which had on former occasions afforded him so much gratification. Mr. Jardine, in his letter, wrote: May I ask you to convey my expression of the deep interest and sympathy in all that concerns the Hospital, and the pleasure I feel in the successful efforts of the committee and all interested, resulting in the whole of the wards being utilised by the occupation of no less than 100 beds. May I also ask you to hand the enclosed cheque to your treasurer in fulfilment of my promise that the amount should be invested for the purpose of creating a fund equal to the amount received in lieu of the present rent, in order that the plot of land at the south end of the Hospital may be used as a recreation ground for the patients for ever. My wish is further, that the committee will make the plot attractive, and furnish the same with needful seats &c., and hand the account to me. The chairman mentioned that the cheque amounted to £1,000, which announcement was received with applause. In the course of a few remarks, Mr. Hetherington spoke of the admirable manner in which the Institution was conducted, and said the statement of accounts merited great attention, and reflected creditably upon the treasurer.

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

A VALUABLE report has been issued by the Local Government Board, says the *The Daily Telegraph*, on the influenza epidemic of 1889-92. It is accompanied by special reports made by Dr. Klein and Dr. Parsons, introduced by a general statement from the pen of Dr. Thorne Thorne. Some of the conclusions drawn are extremely noteworthy, one of them being that as yet no conditions of site, soil, climate, sanitary circumstances, occupation, or otherwise, have yet been elicited which afford any satisfactory explanation of these differing incidences. At the same time there is some evidence pointing to the influence of a severe epidemic as serving to grant a certain immunity against another in the same locality. With regard, further, to the mortality occasioned by the disease in different communities, it is noteworthy that the rate of death due to influenza was substantially greater in rural and sparsely populated areas than in large towns.

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Thus, whereas in the metropolis and in ninety towns having populations of from 20,000 to 80,000 each, the influenza death rate varied from 0.52 to 0.58 per 1,000 living, this rate on nearly 3,000,000 people living in 192 rural sanitary districts reached 0.73 per 1,000. This, at first sight, appears opposed to what might have been expected as regards a disease which has been held to be communicable from person to person; but it receives an explanation when it is remembered that the death-rate from influenza increases with advancing age, and that whilst so many of our rural areas have been more or less denuded of young people and adolescents, the old people have remained at home in their villages. All the experience gained by further inquiry goes strongly to confirm the view that influenza is essentially propagated from person to person. Indeed, the evidence which is now forthcoming tending to show that the disease has followed the lines of human intercourse far outweighs any that has been put forward in favour of its being due to "atmospheric causes."

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The heavier mortality from influenza experienced in the later epidemics as compared with that of 1889-90, has appeared to be in part due to the fact that, whereas in the former epidemic disturbances of the circulatory and cerebro-spinal systems were prominent manifestations, the stress of the malady in the more recent prevalence fell especially upon the lungs. This has led Dr. Parsons to raise in his present report the question as to whether inflammatory affections of the lung, and especially pneumonia, are an integral part of the disease or

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)