

THE annual report of the General Hospital at Birmingham, for 1893, is, as usual, a model of its kind, not only as to the tale of a large amount of successful work which it tells, but in the remarkable completeness and carefulness with which the details are set forth. The Nursing Sub-Committee, which controls the Nurse Training School, appears to be doing excellent work, and furnishes another proof of the usefulness of entrusting the management of this special department to a Special Committee.

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THE East London Nursing Society continues to do excellent work. During the year 1893, 4,259 patients were nursed by its workers, and to these no less than 87,382 visits were paid, showing to the initiated that the cases must have been, on the average, of a severe type. With its constantly increasing work, this Society should receive a greater amount of public support, and we hope that, as time goes on, it will in this way be better enabled to deal with the great field of work which lays ready to its hand.

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THE North Eastern Hospital for Children needs no commendation of ours, because the great work which it does amongst the children of the most densely populated and poorest district in the metropolis, is well known. It stands, however, almost in a unique position, financially, because there has been, for many years, a constant deficit every year, which has been met by a constantly increasing mortgage upon the Hospital. This, however, cannot go on indefinitely, and the public should certainly give freely towards clearing the Hospital of its difficulties, and thus enable it to carry on its great and beneficent work, unimpeded by financial obstacles.

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LAST week we commended the honourable course adopted by the President, Lord CADOGAN, and the Committee of the Chelsea Hospital for Women, in insisting upon a public inquiry into the Report of the Medical Officer for Health concerning the condition of the Hospital. But we must add that we strongly agree with Dr. LOUIS PARKES in his protest concerning the constitution of the Committee of Investigation, as it is proposed that three members of the consulting staff of the Hospital should sit upon it. No Committee so constituted would, in the eyes of the public, be unprejudiced, especially as one of these gentlemen has a son on the staff of the Hospital, and after the opinion expressed by another that no inquiry was necessary. We hope that Dr. PARKES will insist that the Committee shall consist of persons, who are in no way connected with the Institution, and men of honourable reputation. In the latter connection we question

the fitness of Sir CHARLES DILKE to sit in judgment on his fellow men, quite as strongly as women would object to be judged by Mrs. CRAWFORD.

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At the Meeting of the Chelsea Vestry of the 20th inst., Dr. PARKES remarked:—

“Inasmuch as the report of this committee may be utilised for founding ulterior proceedings of the nature above indicated, I take this, the earliest opportunity to state publicly that I object to the inclusion of any members of the staff—consulting or actual. An investigation of this character would not be the independent investigation which the circumstances demand and which the public expects. The medical members of the committee should be appointed solely by the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal College of Physicians.”

In a further report Dr. PARKES makes some serious charges:—

“At the last meeting of the Vestry I presented a report on the registration of deaths, having more particularly in view deaths consequent upon surgical operations. I find that a very garbled account of this report is being circulated amongst members of the medical profession by persons unknown, but the supposition by the receivers is that I am sending out reports as threats or warnings. A letter has also been sent to the *Lancet*, and the comments of the writer show that he has received a very inaccurate and garbled account of the report I actually made. I have not myself sent out any of the reports, and I have not authorised or consented to any of these reports being circulated amongst members of the medical profession. It is evident that this action is being dictated by malicious motives, and I challenge the anonymous author to declare himself.”

After some discussion, the whole subject was referred to a special committee. A suggestion was made that Dr. PARKES should receive legal assistance from the Vestry's solicitor in case of a libel suit, but he said that he preferred to be left with a free hand with his own solicitor.

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AN appeal has been issued for the Rotunda Hospital, in Dublin, to which we would give our earnest support. The Institution has a world-wide name, having for many years taken the leading place in the training of medical students and midwives in the Obstetric Art. The old building has for long been found inadequate to meet the demands upon its space, and, indeed, it is totally unsuitable, if not dangerous. From the bottom to the top of the Hospital there are no less than twelve flights of narrow stairs, so that the safety of the patients, in the event of an outbreak of fire, might be seriously compromised. The surgical theatre, in which the most critical operations sometimes have to be performed, is located in a small garret on the top storey, and is not furnished either with gas, or with hot water. £11,000 is the sum asked for, to provide new and more suitable wards, and, of this, £7,000 have already been subscribed. We earnestly hope, for the well-being of our Irish sisters, that the remaining £4,000 will be speedily obtained, and the much-needed improvements carried out.

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