

is quoted to us of a somewhat important motion, which was proposed, seconded, and ultimately carried, without a dissentient voice, in a meeting, the majority of the members of which were strongly averse to its adoption, and evidently because the ladies present did not feel sure how it should be treated, except by a direct negative, for which, owing to other circumstances, they felt unable to vote. They were unaware that in order to defeat a resolution there are two means possible: either to vote directly against the resolution, and so negative it entirely—which sometimes causes a certain amount of friction—or to move and second amendments, which would have the effect of completely amending those parts of the resolution to which they object, or, indeed, of altering it altogether, and substituting, in its place, an entirely new proposal.

The one thing which an amendment cannot do is to negative a resolution *directly*—that can only be done by voting against the resolution. As the word signifies, the object of the counter proposition is merely to amend or alter the original proposal. But, within those lines, an amendment may either change a few words in the resolution, or may substitute an entirely new proposition. When an amendment has been proposed and seconded, it is always open to the proposer of the resolution to accept the amendment; and, if the seconder also agree, the resolution, as amended, may be put to the meeting. But, if either, or both, disagree with the amendment, it is the duty of the Chairman to permit the meeting to discuss both these proposals freely, and, when the discussion ceases, it becomes his duty to put the amendment first to the meeting, and to take, by a show of hands, the number of those in favour of, and then that of those against, the amendment. If the amendment is lost, it is permissible for anyone to propose a second, or any number of other amendments, which are voted upon in like manner. If an amendment is accepted, the original resolution falls, and the Chairman must then put the amendment to the meeting in the form of a "substantive resolution." To this, then, fresh amendments may be proposed; but, more commonly, the sense of the meeting is sufficiently clear to make the first amendment generally acceptable, so that the substantive resolution is usually agreed to without further discussion.

In all debates, two important rules should be borne in mind—to address remarks entirely to the Chair, and to keep strictly to the business which is under discussion. It is equally irregular and useless to confide one's views in whispers to one's neighbours, because such a course disturbs other speakers, and deprives the meeting generally of suggestions which may be very valuable. And to debate a matter which has been already settled, or one which has not yet been reached, simply

involves confusion and waste of time. Finally, it should always be remembered that it is a golden rule in English Committees that differences of opinion shall be solved, if possible, by mutual compromise.

THE BICYCLE BRIGADE.

People at present, it appears, may be divided into two great classes—those who ride cycles, and those whom cycles ride over; because, while the fashion for this convenient and economical method of locomotion is increasing amongst all ranks and classes, it is undeniable that the danger of these machines to the pedestrian public is also becoming greater, and the severity of the accidents which they cause is also being enhanced. The latest proposal is, that District Nurses should join the great army of cyclists, and be provided with the iron horse. Its utility and immense advantages have been conclusively proved in the case of rural postmen, whose work has been greatly lightened by the adoption of such facilities for travel, and for the conveyance of heavy parcels which they are oftentimes required to carry for many miles. Medical men, clergymen, and other workers in country districts, have all in turn adopted the popular vehicle; the first cost of which is often the last; which requires no expense for stable accommodation, nor for still more costly food and attention. The suggestion, therefore, that those Nurses who are engaged in district work should be provided with tricycles, is only a further development of the usefulness of the machine. Considering the long distances which these women often have to walk, and, on the other hand, the expense which is incurred in keeping a pony and cart for their use, and which, by-the-bye, is, as a rule, made the excuse for diminishing the already scanty salaries which are paid to such workers, it is certain that much benefit would accrue to them, both directly and indirectly, by the general adoption of this practical and most useful suggestion.

THE ANDREW CLARK MEMORIAL.

While opinions are naturally much divided as to the particular memorial which should be raised to the late Sir Andrew Clark, there is a general consensus of opinion, as was evidenced by the large and influential gathering which took place recently to consider and take action on this matter, that some memorial was fitting and wise. There are not wanting some who maintain that the medical school of the London Hospital, which Sir Andrew Clark did so much to raise and to advance, would be better selected as the medium of perpetuating his memory; and that one or more scholarships, or even the institution, and endowment of a chair or Lectureship, in one of the subjects of medical science, would be better calculated to increase or to attract the cordial assistance and co-operation of the medical profession, and, through them, of the public at large, than the proposed form, consisting as it does in an increase, however valuable, to the ward accommodation of the Hospital. However this may be, we earnestly hope that the efforts which are being made in memory of so generous a man and so excellent a physician, may be crowned with success.

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