

elected Members of the General Council should retire in rotation, each year. This was only a *Regulation*, and Dr. Bezly Thorne is of course perfectly well aware that it could not, and did not, over-ride the Bye-Laws, and that it therefore referred only and solely to the *elected* and moveable matrons and nurses on the General Council. He now attempts to pretend that this Regulation of retirement referred also to those whom the Bye-Laws made permanent or *ex-officio* members of the Council—a quibble which is as ridiculously feeble as it is wilfully inaccurate.

Annotations.

A CENTRAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

THE First Annual Meeting of the General Committee for the promotion of a Central Hospital Board for London, under the auspices of the Charity Organization Society was held at the Royal United Service Institution on Monday last. The Earl of Stamford presided, and was supported on the platform by Sir William Broadbent, Lieut.-Colonel Montefiore, Mr. C. S. Loch, and others. A large number of representative persons were present, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.

Sir William Broadbent proposed the following resolution:—

“That this Meeting adopts the First Report of the General Committee for the promotion of a Central Hospital Board for London, and expresses its conviction of the great importance of the establishment, at an early date, of a Hospital Board, representative of all the interests concerned.”

Sir William expressed his conviction of the necessity of this step, and his belief that there was a widespread feeling of distrust on the part of the public with regard to the efficiency and management of hospitals, which the establishment of a Central Board would remove. Sir William also referred to those hospitals which he called “institutions of sorts” which were unnecessary, useless, and which really, under the guise of charities, were run for the private ends of unknown medical men, and in which the secretaries received commissions upon the subscriptions. The establishment of a Central Board would materially assist in the suppression of such abuses. Hospitals of repute would no doubt co-operate with the Board, and those whose ways would not bear investigation would keep outside. Sir William also stated that it

was proposed that General Practitioners should be represented upon the Board. It was the greatest possible mistake to suppose that the General Practitioners were hostile to hospitals. The resolution was seconded by Mr. E. Bond, M.P., L.C.C., and supported by Sir Joseph Fayrer, Mr. Victor Horsley, and Dr. Glover. More than one speaker expressed the hope that the Board suggested might be the medium used for the administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund. Surgeon-Major Lieut.-Colonel Myers represented the opposition, which, when the resolution was put to the meeting, was found to number two persons. Mr. Loch, in a short, but vigorous and able speech, disposed of the objections, and the meeting then terminated.

VETERINARY NURSES.

A CORRESPONDENT, in writing to a contemporary, makes the following suggestion:—

“I own a black pug, to which I am much attached. Apart from this, as it is a prize-winner, its value is considerable. A week ago my dog became seriously ill, and for several nights I had to devote myself entirely to helping him to avoid death. Had I sent the dog to a veterinary surgeon he would have pined and died. Might I suggest that there should be trained nurses for dogs. I should readily have paid five or ten shillings a night to a trained nurse who would have stopped in the house and looked after the dog, thus permitting me to have the rest which I required. As it is, the strain has told upon me, and I am giving more guineas to doctors for myself than should have paid shillings to a nurse for my dog. In these days, when well-educated women are seeking for occupation in almost every direction, may not this suggestion recommend itself to some of them?”

Women have been denied the right to become veterinary surgeons, but it would seem that there is an opening for them as veterinary nurses, and we do not see that any exception could justly be taken to their acting in this capacity. We wonder if the owner of the black pug applied to any institution for a nurse for her pet. Many nurses who are really fond of animals would, we believe, be quite willing to afford skilled help to sick animals if the need were brought before them. A real liking for the “brute creation,” tenderness, and skill, would, of course, be necessary qualifications for undertaking work which in some ways would be of exceptional difficulty. We all of us know persons whom animals instinctively trust, and who, in their turn, are willing to put themselves to considerable inconvenience for their dumb friends. Why should not these talents be turned to account? We are acquainted with a cook who would

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