

President should be chosen from the laity or the profession. Several members felt that a President of social influence would help on the work of the Institute, while a considerable number were of the opinion that a midwife would be the best representative of the Institute. We shall watch with much interest to see how this point is eventually decided, and whether the Institute descends from the professional attitude it has hitherto maintained in this matter. We are glad to observe that at the conference the feeling was decidedly in favour of a midwife. We hope that the opinion of the Council may be the same.

#### THE HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.

ON Saturday last the annual meeting of the Hospital Saturday Fund was held at the Mansion House. Mr. R. B. D. Acland presided in the absence of the Lord Mayor. We are sorry to notice that by the discontinuance of the street collection the Fund has this year been the loser by some £2,000, but we feel sure that eventually the Committee will prove the wisdom of the course which they have adopted.

Sir Arthur Arnold moved a resolution appealing to the working classes for increased support to obviate this loss, which was agreed to, and Sir Savile Crossley moved a resolution urging employers to assist to place the Hospitals on a more satisfactory basis by means of regular weekly contributions. The Hon. Sydney Holland, in seconding this motion, commented on the necessity of enlisting the sympathies of the working classes, and expressed the opinion that in all Hospitals illness and necessity should be the sole passports to admission. He was glad to say that both at the London and at the Poplar Hospital the use of subscribers' letters had been abolished. This is another instance of the fact that the interests of the sick poor are safe in the hands of Mr. Sydney Holland, whose warm practical sympathy with them is by this time proverbial.

#### CITIZEN SUNDAY.

THE Higher Duties of Citizenship was the theme upon which many of the preachers, both in churches and chapels, discoursed on Sunday last. At St. Paul's Cathedral, the Bishop of

Marlborough, the Bishop of Stepney, and the Rev. Lord Robert Cecil spoke out, the two former on the East London Water Company, and the housing of the poor respectively, and at the Abbey the preachers also dwelt on similar topics.

At the Free Christian Church, Croydon, the Rev. J. Page Hopps appealed to his hearers as follows: "Be on the side of Divine ideals. Be on the side of "sweetness and light." Be on the side of the beaten and the sick. Be on the side of the very young and the very old. Be on the woman's side; don't disqualify her, underpay her, overwork her. Be on the side of the Lord's pure air and sweet streams, and beautiful birds; don't defile them, poison them, kill them. Be on the side of the blending of the classes, promoting mutual understanding, intercourse, and goodwill. Believe in the solidarity of the human race; don't set yourself stiffly against God's Frenchmen, as your natural enemies."

To be on the side of "sweetness and light" is a splendid ideal, but how difficult to put into practice! Dirt and darkness abound on all sides, and all the powers of darkness seem to rise up against those who would eradicate them. Few worthier missions could fall to any man or woman than to bring sweetness and light into the many unsanitary dwellings still existing in this city, and undoubtedly it is the duty of every citizen to further by all means in his or her power the coming of the time when there shall be "no darkness at all."

#### A PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY.

THERE is a rumour that, as soon as Parliament meets, the Government proposes to appoint a Committee of Inquiry into the "massage" question. A contemporary hopes that it will do nothing of the kind, and says that the facts are notorious, and need no ventilation, as they have been the subject of private representation to Scotland Yard long ago. It suggests, as an alternative, that the Home Office should pass a short Bill, as soon as the House sits, making it illegal to open a massage establishment without a license; and proposes that the measure should be extended to all private homes for medical, or quasi-medical purposes. We think that the opportunity would be a suitable one not only for an inquiry into the "massage" difficulty, but into the whole nursing question.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)