

ant Director, Medical Officer, and Registrar appointed. Special bacteriological, microscopical, and chemical laboratories have also been fitted up. In the interests of scientific research and the medical school this is no doubt all that can be desired. But how about the patients? We hope that their interests and those of scientific medicine will be kept distinct, for they are by no means always identical, and we also hope that it will be borne in mind that the money which has been given by the public for maintenance of the cancer wards in this institution has been given for the relief of those suffering from this terrible disease, and not for the maintenance of a school of scientific research. There is a danger in these days that a thirst for scientific knowledge, and a desire to be the first in the field in the discovery of a new germ, may affect prejudicially the interests of individual patients, and the well being of the sick must be carefully safeguarded by the appointment of a medical staff of wide humane sympathies, and of lay managers, whose only care is for the comfort of the sick, or the Rubicon dividing cure and alleviation, from experimental medicine, may be overstepped. There is need at present that members of the public, who do not wish their contributions to hospitals to be devoted to purposes of scientific research should, in sending them, state this fact.

It must also be borne in mind by the charitable public, that recently the Governors of Middlesex Hospital have made themselves responsible for the financial success of the medical school attached to this hospital, which has failed to attract a sufficient number of students to pay its own expenses. With all this inquisitorial array of scientific impedimenta, many sufferers from the disease may feel inclined to give the much advertised cancer wards at the Middlesex Hospital a wide berth.

A NEUTRAL DOMICILE.

IN a passage of pens which took place some little time ago between ourselves, and Sir Henry Burdett, the editor of the *Hospital* newspaper, he announced that every advertisement which appears in the columns of his paper is paid for. Presumably therefore the advertisements of our London and other hospitals which occur in its pages are a source of income to the proprietors. Under these conditions, the public will no doubt agree with us that it is most ill-advised for the office of the League of Mercy—of which Sir Henry Burdett is Treasurer—in support of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund, to be at the

Hospital buildings in Southampton Street, and that its business should be conducted under the same roof as the purely commercial transactions of Sir H. Burdett's paper. Moreover, as Sir Henry Burdett has made himself a Life Governor of many of our hospitals, it is easy to see that it is extremely difficult for hospital secretaries to maintain an impartial attitude. The official address of the League of Mercy, should have been *sans peur et sans reproche*, and should not have been located at the business office of any newspaper which derives its clientele and support from hospital officials. The Committee would be well advised to find a neutral domicile.

THE HOUSEHOLDERS' LEAGUE.

TO Mrs. Crawford's fertile inspiration we owe the initiation of a new political society, to be called "The Householders' League," and a meeting held at her country residence in Surrey, on Friday, 8th December, found the scheme well in hand. This Householders' League has for its object the enfranchisement of women, and a co-operation of those women who pay taxes, and are thus taxed without representation, will, we feel sure, prove a strong factor in convincing all just-minded men and women that the present position of disfranchised women, is one which self-respecting women must no longer tolerate. It has been decided to develop the League on the "snowball" system, which ensures the highest rate of speed, with the least possible expenditure of time, trouble, and money; each individual member will be invited to contribute one shilling to the expenses, and to write five letters to suitable friends, who will repeat the process; the qualification for membership is simply to be a ratepayer, and to pledge yourself to support at elections only such candidates as members of Parliament as will promise to support by their vote the enfranchisement of women.

There is an immense future before this new Society, as there are many more women property-holders than is usually known, and men are to be asked to join to help to obtain justice for women; we predict success to this new effort on the part of women to extricate themselves from their present degrading position in the body politic, and we could not have a "straighter" champion than Mrs. Crawford, a woman of enormous intellectual capacity, a striking artist, Egyptologist, fine writer, and keen politician. We wish her success.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)