

dated revenue, supplies more than half the total amount, but neither the Government nor the District Board is directly represented on the Board of Trustees. Further, neither the Government Department nor the District Board have the smallest control over the management or expenditure of these 'separate institutions' beyond merely the Government auditing of accounts. Thus 'separate institutions' are practically irresponsible bodies, distributing public money for the relief of the poor. Neither are Charitable Boards responsible for either expenditure or administration to any central authority."

Mrs. Neill appears to have put her finger on a point in which reform is necessary. The Government and the District Boards should certainly have direct representation on the Board of Trustees.

The report then goes into detail concerning various institutions, noting appreciatively excellence in management, and with equal clearness inefficiency and irregularities where they occur. For instance, three institutions are mentioned in which "There is no efficient, and but little even humane, nursing of helpless old age, the sick and infirm being unusually left to the tendance of one of their own kind." Again, we read:—"In dealing with deserted and neglected children, there is room for reform. Infants taken into a home, if payment is not avowedly made come under no public guardianship. . . . Perhaps a family is orphaned, and some neighbour with a small shop and a large family, offers to take a girl of ten or twelve years, who then becomes an unpaid little drudge, and unless actual cruelty can be proved, no one interferes. There is no definite or comprehensive State guardianship of children, responsible for their development into healthy, self-respecting members of the commonwealth."

The remarks made by Dr. MacGregor are also worthy of note, and the nursing of the hospitals comes in for a considerable share of attention. Notes are made as to improvement in discipline of the nurses, orderliness in the wards, and the need for a night superintendent in one institution. The "over-manning of the resident medical staff" is also noted. Of the supporters of another hospital we read they "take fits of furious fault-finding and then sink into a state of lethargic neglect as to the persons into whose hands they commit the control," also the Chairman and the doctor are "at daggers drawn."

Of another institution we read:—"The new Matron is as yet on her trial. The nurses seem to me to be satisfactory. The Secretary is too able a man for the position he is content to fill and his pay is out of proportion to the duties he has to perform."

Again, "There is something in the organization of this institution that seems to make peace difficult. This time the difficulty was between the Matron and her two nurses. The trustees ought to grasp their nettle firmly and put an end to this state of things. The discipline of the institution must be maintained. It is impossible that the Hospital can work properly with the spirit that I found prevailing among the staff."

When shall we have a report, on similar lines, the result of the observations of a medical man and a trained nurse, issued by the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund?

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



WE are glad to learn on the authority of Mr. A. J. Lewis, the Hon. Secretary of the Passmore Edwards Cottage Hospital at Wood Green, that the statement widely made in the press that the Council of the Hospital had applied to the Licensing Committee of the London County Council for a music and dancing license is incorrect, and that the Hospital is not, and never was intended to be, licensed. We are glad to be able to contradict this statement.

Dr. Beatrice Knowles, who was recently appointed second assistant medical officer to the Bethnal Green Workhouse, has been appointed first assistant officer at a salary of £125 per annum with the resident allowances.

The London School of Medicine for Women is to be congratulated on the addition of a new block containing a large and well lighted laboratory. There are three lecture theatres admirably arranged one above the other, all fitted with tiers of seats, and provision has been made for lantern demonstrations. The possession of this has enabled the school to begin classes for the Preliminary Scientific M.B. Examination of the University of London. There is also a laboratory for general research work with dressing rooms attached. There are also administrative offices, accommodation for the secretarial staff, and a fine board room. The cost of the whole block is estimated at about £8,000.

Another wing, which will complete the school, is to be begun at once. This will, amongst other features, include seventeen sets of residential chambers for the use of students. The new block will cost about £10,000, and more than this sum is required by the school in order to declare itself free from debt. At present it is trenching upon its capital. Is it too much to hope that some generous supporter of women's movement will free the committee from pecuniary anxiety, and enable them to complete the necessary work in a manner worthy of the traditions of the school?

Miss Flora C. Stevenson presided last week at the Annual Meeting of the Edinburgh Hospital for Women

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