

The Hospital World.

THE LONDON TEMPERANCE HOSPITAL.

THE London Temperance Hospital, Hampstead Road, is an institution which always strikes one as a most cheery, and well managed charity, and on Thursday in last week, on the occasion of the annual meeting of its friends and supporters, it certainly looked its best. The meeting was at 7 o'clock, but, before that hour, visitors were invited to inspect the hospital. Those—and they were a goodly number—who availed themselves of this invitation, were first ushered into the pleasant Board Room, where tea was hospitably provided, after which they passed on through the wards. The show ward, of course, was the aseptic one, which has already been described in these columns, and in this the chief interest centred, and, indeed, it looked charming with its tessellated floor, glass tiled walls, and tiled grate, while the brass bedstead, glass and zinc locker, and glass dressing waggon, are calculated to strike terror into the heart of the most valiant germ. The larger wards which for the most part have polished floors, the tables in the centre having marble or tiled tops, looked the picture of comfort, and the patients seemed most happy and well cared for. In one ward was a patient whose case was so serious that she was to "have alcohol" if she did not improve. The Sister of the ward was evidently impressed at the responsibility incurred by the hospital if anything went wrong after its administration. It did not strike one that she had much faith in the efficacy of a drug of whose evil effects she was well aware, and which she had seen to be unnecessary in the treatment of the large majority of cases under her care. Be this as it may, we are glad that the rules of the hospital provide that the medical staff shall be at liberty to administer alcohol when they deem it to be needful. It is interesting to note that the number of cases in the twenty-six years of the Hospital's existence in which this liberty has been used, is 36 out of a total number of 16,628 in-patients.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

At the Annual Meeting, which was well attended, the Chair was occupied by the Right Hon. the Earl Carrington, G.C.M.G. On the platform were the Countess Carrington, Dr. and Mrs. Collins, Dr. Dawson-Burns (Hon. Sec.), Mr. W. S. Caine, Canon Barker, and others. In presenting the Annual Report, Dr. Burns referred to the loss the Hospital had sustained by the death of its late President, the Duke of Westminster, and announced that Mr. Thomas Cash, who had been Chairman of the Board of Management for 26 years, and had been identified with the movement before the Hospital was in existence, had been

elected as his successor. We are glad that the Committee have elected to this office one who has worked for so long for the Institution, instead of seeking for patronage from those not identified with the principles to which the Institution stands pledged.

Lord Carrington, in a happy speech from the Chair, spoke of the apparent injustice of rating hospitals. He also pleaded that established institutions should not be allowed to suffer in consequence of the diversion of funds, at this time when people were subscribing so liberally to the Absent-Minded Beggar Fund and kindred movements, which he ventured to think were doing work which ought to be done to a much greater extent than was the case by the Government, instead of being undertaken by the charitable public.

The following resolution was then proposed by Canon Barker in an eloquent speech:—

"That this meeting regards the continued success attending the work of the London Temperance Hospital as a powerful reason for the adoption of its distinctive principle by the Medical Profession, and for a generous support of the institution by the friends of temperance and all classes of the community. And this meeting expresses its hearty thanks to the Board of Management, the Medical and Surgical Staff, the Matron and Nurses, and all who have been concerned in the harmonious and efficient conduct of the hospital during the past year."

Canon Barker added his testimony as to the work done by the nursing staff, and said that when the value of the work was considered, it must be realized that the payment they received for their services could in no sense be looked upon as a salary, it was rather a small gratuity.

Mr. W. S. Caine, J.P., in seconding the resolution, expressed the opinion that the stupidity of many medical men with regard to the prescription of alcohol was very great. He, however, thought that, at the London Temperance Hospital, they had, in their medical staff—selected necessarily from a fraction of the profession—a set of men who were second to none. He also said that, considering the training undergone and the work done by nurses, none could be considered adequately paid. The nurses of the United Kingdom were the best body of women it would be possible to find anywhere. He had had great experience of nurses, and he had never known one whom he did not look up to. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. Collins, in returning thanks for the medical staff, spoke of the good work of the nursing staff, which, he said, was done quite as efficiently in the absence of the medical staff as when they were present. Three of their nurses were now at the front in South Africa, and he was sure that no better nurses would serve there. He commented on the remarks of that "genial

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)