

The Hospital World.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

The article by the Hon. Stephen Coleridge in the March number of the *Contemporary Review* on "Some London Hospitals and their Audited Accounts," in which sundry charges were made against the Middlesex Hospital, has roused the Chairman of this hospital to act upon the defensive; and, certainly, the charges made by Mr. Coleridge were damaging enough to need disproof, if this is possible. But the mere assertion of Mr. Clare Melhado, the secretary, and the playing with words and lack of frankness, while shirking the main issue, in the letter of the chairman, Sir Ralph Thompson, to the press, will scarcely satisfy either Mr. Stephen Coleridge or those who, like him, are dissatisfied with the appropriation of funds, subscribed by the benevolent to this hospital, for the furtherance of the Medical School. And when in connection with the medical school experiments in vivisection are prosecuted the public have a further grievance, for there can be no question, that, as the business of the Middlesex Hospital is at present conducted, the subscriptions of anti-vivisectionists, given to the general funds, may be utilized for the support of vivisection, whether in connection with the cancer department, or the general work of the school is immaterial. What we have always contended, and what we continue to contend, is that money subscribed to the general funds of hospitals should not be utilized for the maintenance of their medical schools, and that thousands of pounds have been diverted by Middlesex Hospital in this way. If the reputation of the school is not sufficient to attract a sufficient number of students to make it self-supporting, then as a matter of honesty the Committee should tell the medical staff that the school must be put down. There would, of course, at once be a hue and cry that under these circumstances the staff would deteriorate, as the best men would not put in for the appointments in the hospital. On this point Mr. Stephen Coleridge is able to meet Sir Ralph Thompson with an irrefutable argument. He says: "The suggestion of Sir Ralph Thompson that a school is a necessary adjunct of a great hospital, and therefore should be subsidised out of its funds need not to be accepted until he can name a single great hospital in Scotland that has a school attached to it, and can show that either the hospitals or the students in Scotland suffer in consequence."

As a matter of fact, the sooner our medical schools are detached from the hospitals the better, more especially when, as in the case of Middlesex, they require to be largely subsidised in order to prevent their collapse.

A Central Medical College would afford greater educational facilities, and could be more economically managed than the costly medical schools now maintained, in part by charity, by some of our hospitals.

The Plague in Australia.

The Government of New South Wales is taking most energetic steps to prevent the spread of the plague. Between 700 and 800 men are employed in clearing the affected area. They are working towards the water as a centre with most satisfactory results. All the outbreaks of the disease so far reported are traceable to the present quarantined area.

Our Foreign Letter.

PLAGUE NURSING IN INDIA.

No. 8.—"LIFE IN A NATIVE STATE."



In the various places in which we were stationed after the first rush of the Plague epidemic was over, we were able to enlarge our sphere of observation

beyond the limits of our little hospitals, and the customs, home-life, and beliefs of the people much interested us. Their consideration for the lower creation was everywhere apparent. In India, perhaps specially in Cutch, one could not help being struck with the care taken of the animals; many villages, that have no pretence of a hospital for men and women, yet have one for animals, and well-conducted; for the most part too. This also serves as a nursery for the kids and lambs. Even the pie dogs who are not allowed in the houses or the hospitals, are not allowed to starve. A collection of money is made from the people, and someone is ordered to purchase and make daily some coarse roti or bread, and the dogs all assembling at the same place are daily fed with as much as they can eat. In Mandvi several cows are set apart to give them milk.

The birds also are not forgotten, the Rao Sahib allows so much yearly, and in the big towns and villages there are raised flat, railed-in enclosures on which jonari and other grains are thrown daily for the pigeons and other birds.

At one animal hospital to which I have been frequently they had an old lame camel, long past work, which was allowed to wander out on the maidan some part of every day. An old ram had been there for years, was quite blind, and its nails were inches long; it was a great pet, was very fat and clean. They also had a young buffalo that was paralyzed and could not move; but it was kept clean, was put in fresh positions, and had its head comfortably propped up. Several cattle also were stalled there for various injuries. The nursery was in another part, and the thriving little black-faced, curved-nose lambs, and the glossy-black kids seemed to enjoy their somewhat limited life. Once I found a poor baggage donkey dying of dreadful ulcerated wounds on its back, the ravenous crows round pecking it, and the animal unable to drive them away. I went to the hospital and told them about it. The "doctor" came at once with his assistant. They first held the donkey up, gave it water to drink, and finding it was unable to stand, carried it to the hospital, where it died two days later, in comparative comfort at least.

Returning on a camel from a hospital some distance in the jungle, we passed a flock of sheep and goats. The "bukrawala," or goat-herd stopped us, and brought me a glossy black little kid, two days old, for a gift. I told him I already had one very mischievous young goat as a pet, and did not want another, then he requested us to take it to the hospital and ask the "doctor" to take care of it; so it was put

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)