

Annotation.

"NEW GODS."

The Hospital Reform Committee urged subscribers to the Royal Hospital for Incurables at Putney to attend the annual meeting held last week at the Cannon Street Hotel, in order to secure the election of Miss McKee, who was for eight years a guardian for Marylebone, the belief being strongly entertained by the Reform Committee "that it is quite essential to the well-being of the inmates of the institution that there should be ladies on the board."

At the meeting her champions argued that as only thirty-six of the 216 inmates of the hospital were males, one lady, at least, should be included among the members of the board to assist them in their deliberations. Several subscribers spoke in gallant terms of the excellence of ladies' work, but declined to accede to the proposal.

All the male speakers, however, were not so courteous. "It seems to me," said one, "that the curse of the men of Athens has come upon us. They were always seeking something new—seeking new gods—and that is what some of the subscribers are doing now." And he added that the institution had done remarkably well for more than forty years without the presence of ladies on the board of management.

Could there be a feebler argument than the forgoing? To some natures it appears final and conclusive to state that a thing "never has been done." But if this is so why waste time in discussing anything at all, in Parliament or elsewhere? Lay down once for all the axiom that "Whatever is, is best," and cease from striving for improvement or greater justice.

Mr. Stock said a very strong reason why the resolution should not be carried was that there were no ladies on the boards of any of the London hospitals. The Chelsea Hospital for Women was entirely controlled by men.

Then came the voting. Thirty-four voted for the resolution; but there were so many against it that the chairman, Mr. H. J. Allcroft, did not think it worth while to count the hands.

We hope the Reform Committee will bring a suitable woman candidate forward every year until these "Gods" appreciate the absurdity of their position.

Medical Matters.

SKIN TROUBLE AFTER SMALL-POX.



This is an opportune moment, writes Dr. Alfred Eddowes, in the "Medical Times," at which to refer briefly to some of the disfigurements which follow small-pox, especially as there can be no doubt that with a little care and forethought they are largely avoidable. They are, however, fortunately often capable of amelioration many months after recovery from that disease. The following is an illustrative case. The patient, a lady aged twenty-five, had confluent small-pox in March last, she was not expected to live, but she made on the whole a good recovery, and was sent abroad in order to gain her strength more rapidly during convalescence. I saw her for the first time six months after the attack of small-pox. She consulted me on account of the persistent accumulation of hard, dry scaly crusts covering her chin apex, and sides of nose and centre of forehead. In addition to these unsightly accumulations which it was impossible to keep clean, there were little fleshy, wart-like outgrowths mixed up with scars, some of the latter being contracted into little tight bands, while others were in a state of keloid. When a small portion of crust was removed the surface underneath was raw, extremely sensitive and bled freely. A large portion of the face had a dirty look which could be seen with a lens to be due to little plugs in the mouths of sebaceous follicles. The whole of the scalp was covered by scurf, and the hair was brittle and dull. The explanation of this condition appears to me to be very simple, the skin had been injured as a whole by the small-pox and rendered vulnerable, especially at the mouths of the sebaceous and hair follicles. During the healing of the small-pox eruption, pus producing, or other irritating organisms had got into these follicles, if not there beforehand. Two kinds of organisms are almost sure to have been there, namely, those that produce pityriasis and those that produce seborrhoea. Apart from these conditions which I have described, the patient was strikingly anæmic and easily exhausted. The treatment was as simple as it was efficacious. A sulphur lozenge every night,

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