

Mary Wardell's proposal to establish an Institution for the Reception and Isolation of Convalescents from Scarlet Fever, as likely to promote their more complete recovery, and also to check the spread of that formidable disease. And trusting, as we do, that its success will lead to its general adoption, we earnestly recommend this first attempt to supply a great and acknowledged want in the sanitary arrangements of the Metropolis to the large and liberal support of the public, especially as the attempt will be made to render the Institution partially self-supporting.—October, 1879."

But, besides receiving the hearty support and encouragement of the Medical profession, Miss Mary Wardell early obtained testimony to the necessity and importance of her scheme from many of the leading clergy of London, and others well acquainted with the needs of the general population, who expressed their earnest wishes for the success of her efforts, and their readiness to assist her in any way in their power. To these well-wishers must be added the names of many of the nobility, members of the Government, and others, including the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Tait), the late Bishop of London (Dr. Jackson), the Bishop of Bedford, the Lord Mayors (Sir William MacArthur and Sir J. Whittaker Ellis, who convened meetings on its behalf, and, finally, those of H.R.H. The Princess of Wales, who graciously gave her name as Patroness of the Home, accompanied by a donation of £50 to its funds; H.R.H. The Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, who contributed £20 towards its establishment; H.R.H. The Duchess of Albany; and H.R.H. The Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck.

In order to ensure permanence to the work, and to give greater confidence to the public, Miss Wardell, in December, 1880, invited the co-operation of a small number of gentlemen as a Committee to aid in carrying her scheme into effect, the decisions of which Committee on all Medical and sanitary questions to be guided by a Medical Council, consisting of six members of the Medical Profession, who, by the fundamental rules of the project, are *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

The first step of this Committee was to form a deputation to the President of the Local Government Board (the Right Hon. J. G. Dodson), to urge upon him the necessity for making provision, in or near London, for the isolation of patients of the pauper classes, who have reached the convalescent stage, apart from the Hospitals for the reception of persons in the acute stage of the diseases. No action was taken at the time (March, 1881) by the Local Government Board, but there is good ground for believing that the

representations laid before the Board by this deputation were not without weight in its subsequent proceedings.

It was not until January, 1883, that the many and serious obstacles were overcome, and a commencement made by the purchase of a freehold of four acres, with an unfinished house. The first great difficulty had been to obtain a site for such an institution. Everybody acknowledged the need of a home of this kind for the public benefit, but everybody objected to its being located in his own immediate neighbourhood or on his own property. The necessity for conveying the patients by road in an omnibus, the special property of the institution, greatly circumscribed the area in which a suitable house had to be found, and though numerous houses in all directions were visited, their low-lying situation, too close neighbourhood to other houses, unsuitable construction, giving none, or little opportunity for free ventilation, or some other objection, rendered the long and painstaking search fruitless. Further, proprietors objected to let on lease, assigning the not groundless reason that, if successful, the originators of the scheme would doubtless desire to build an institution on a more extensive and perfect plan, so that on the termination of the lease, the property would be returned on their hands, with no chance of finding a tenant willing to succeed such an institution.

The necessity for purchasing a freehold became more and more apparent, but this involved the raising of a much larger sum of money before commencing the work itself, though the advantage has resulted in a far more suitable building than could have been met with on lease having been procured. Another formidable obstacle was the opposition raised by the owner of the adjoining property, who applied to the Court of Chancery for an injunction against the Committee; the action was, however, not proceeded with, and the better acquaintance with the precautions taken by the Committee both in regard to the drainage system, the isolation of the patients, and everything tending to protect the public from risk, has, it is hoped, allayed the alarm and removed all grounds for litigation.

Other difficulties arose out of what was, from one aspect, the greatest recommendation of the site; the isolation of the spot, far away from any inhabited neighbourhood, cut it off from any convenient water supply, as well as from any regular system of drainage. A regular water supply had to be laid on from a considerable distance, and at a large expense, and a mode of drainage carried out under the direction of Mr. Rogers Field, C.E., which, though more elaborate and costly than the usual methods, will avoid the possibility of injury

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