

THE late Mr. Charles Ganderton has bequeathed £7,000 to the Worcester Infirmary. Mr. John Horniman, late of Croydon, has bequeathed £10,000 to the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, and £5,000 to the London Temperance Hospital. Mr. Richard Vaughan, late of Bathwick, Bath, has bequeathed £2,000 to the Bristol Royal Hospital, and £1,000 each to the Bristol General Hospital, the Bristol Blind Asylum, and the Maudlin Street Eye Hospital. The late Mr. J. W. Dawson, of Shipley, has bequeathed £4,000 each to Sir Titus Salt's Hospital at Saltaire, to the Shirley Charity Hospital, and to the Bath Hospital at Harrogate, and £2,000 each to the Bradford Infirmary, to the Bradford Eye and Ear Hospital, and to the Bradford Institution for the Blind. Mr. J. L. Goodlake, late of Farringdon, in his will bequeaths £1,000 to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, and £10,000 to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading. The late Mr. John G. Croome, formerly of Breadstone, Berkeley, has bequeathed £10,000 to the Gloucester Infirmary.

LAST week Mr. JOHN HARDCASTLE, the representative of Hampstead, on the Metropolitan Asylums Board, specially attended a Meeting of the Hampstead Board of Guardians for the purpose of publicly making a statement with reference to the Asylums Board and the fever epidemic in the metropolis. Mr. HARDCASTLE admitted that the Asylums Board was at present unable to cope successfully with the amount of infectious disease in London, but stated that the Board was doing everything in its power to meet the difficulty. He quoted statistics to show the enormous increase in the demand on the Board's fever hospital accommodation since the passing of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and the removal of the stigma of pauperism from patients in the Board's hospitals.

In 1891 the Board had 2,300 beds, 7,347 patients, and there were 26,522 notifications of disease. In 1892 there were 46,074 notifications, the number of beds was increased to 3,800, and 15,561 patients were treated. Everything went on well until an epidemic of small-pox broke out, when 600 beds which had been devoted to fever patients had to be set apart for small-pox cases. But as late as April last, 2,395 beds were in use and 526 ready and vacant. The Board hoped soon to open a temporary Hospital at Tooting with 400 beds, and they proposed to erect a permanent Hospital at Lewisham with another 400 beds. In addition to the difficulty of obtaining sites, one great difficulty was that of obtaining properly qualified Nurses. At the Tottenham Hospital, of which he was chairman, there were 500 beds, but only 400 were in use because they had not sufficient Nurses.

Our Irish Letter.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

FEW persons are aware that a struggle for life is going on among Hospitals in Ireland just now; the general social outlook has been so uncertain for some years past that whether the Hospitals depend on endowments drawn from land, or have to look to private generosity for their support, their position is almost equally doubtful. The depreciation of landed property has affected, in the most disastrous way, the class from which subscriptions come most readily, and year after year, donors find the surplus which they are able to devote to charitable purposes becoming lamentably less; while those into whose hands the money has passed, have not yet learned to look beyond their own wants for ways and means of spending their increased income.

Many Hospitals in Dublin have accommodation for a much larger number of patients than their funds can support, some have only half their beds open; at the same time, it must be remembered, that the Hospital accommodation, per head for the population, is much larger than in most towns of the same size. For a population of 245,000, there are 9 general Hospitals containing over 1,500 beds, and 14 others for the treatment of special cases; a comparison with Edinburgh, which has a population of 261,000, and general Hospital accommodation for 750 patients, with 6 special Hospitals, will show that, in Ireland, we are not neglectful of the wants of our poorer classes.

Every effort is being made to keep all these Institutions in full working order, and, within the last twelve months, the large sum of £11,000 was realized by a bazaar and fête, which was admirably organized and managed by the friends of the City of Dublin for the benefit of the City of Dublin Hospital. As a result of this successful appeal to the public, this Hospital has been able, very handsomely, to refront and enlarge the general building, so that what was formerly a gloomy looking dwelling house, has been transformed into a bright and picturesque building; it may seem a pity that the governors did not wholly rebuild, as there remains, what appears a serious structural defect, namely, the want of height in the wards; probably, the sum of money at their disposal, though large, was not sufficient for the outlay which would have been necessary.

Another such effort is, we understand, in contemplation, during next spring, for Jarvis Street Hospital, which appeals for means to reopen its beds to receive accident cases, and such surgical cases as require immediate attention.

A movement in the right direction is being made to amalgamate the National Eye and Ear Infirmary with St. Mark's Hospital, so as to bring the two under one management, thus lessening the cost of maintenance. New quarters will have to be found for the United Hospitals' as the ground accommodation for either would be insufficient to accommodate the additional buildings which would be requisite.

The Orthopædic Hospital, in Great Brunswick Street, is likely to be transferred to more capacious quarters,

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