

SIR HENRY THOMPSON has offered the sum of £5,000 sterling to the nation, through the Astronomer Royal, for the purpose of buying a telescope for Greenwich Observatory.

* * *

DR. NORMAN KERR presided at the Church House, Westminster, at a meeting of the Church Sanitary Association, when it was resolved to suggest the seventh Sunday after Trinity (this year, July 8th) as suitable for reference being made in the pulpit, either by means of a sermon, or by some general notice, to the hygienic necessity for personal cleanliness, fresh air, pure water, abundant light, unadulterated food, and every possible safeguard against infectious disease.

* * *

THE Council of the Sanitary Institute have accepted an invitation received from the Lord Mayor and citizens of Liverpool, to hold their next congress and exhibition in that city in the autumn of the year.

* * *

MR. ARTHUR S. DURHAM, senior surgeon of Guy's Hospital, has retired from the acting, and has been placed upon the consulting, staff. MR. GOLDING BIRD thus becomes a surgeon, and MR. L. A. DUNN has been appointed assistant surgeon, to the Hospital.

* * *

DR. HUGHLINGS JACKSON has resigned, upon completion of twenty years' service, his position as senior physician to the London Hospital, and has been elected a consulting physician to the Hospital. DR. FENWICK thus becomes senior physician. DR. GUSTAVE SCHORSTEIN has been appointed assistant physician.

* * *

WE are glad to observe that the *British Medical Journal* has reported and dealt adversely with a case of Poor Law Mismanagement; and, in deed, so flagrant is the disgraceful condition of affairs at the Newton Abbott Union, that it is impossible for even the warmest partisan of bumble-don to ignore it. It is sincerely to be hoped that the terrible sufferings of its unfortunate inmates may be the lever of much needed reform all over the country.

* * *

THE Chelsea Vestry, having considered the question, has declined to be represented on the proposed Committee of inquiry concerning the Chelsea Hospital for Women, on the ground that they object to the consulting medical officers of the Hospital acting upon the Committee.

* * *

“A CHELSEA Parishioner” writes:—

“I am glad to see that with your usual clear-sighted sense of justice you have expressed an opinion that “you strongly agree with Dr. Louis Parkes in his protest concerning the constitution of the Committee of Investigation

at the Chelsea Hospital for Women, as it is proposed that three members of the consulting staff of the Hospital should sit upon it.” May I ask you to be good enough to show how unjust such an arrangement would be after the following expressions of opinions at the special meeting of the Governors of the Chelsea Hospital for Women. The three consultants of the Hospital, whose names were proposed to act in conjunction with others, were Sir Spencer Wells, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, and Dr. Robert Barnes, who is the father of one of the physicians to the Hospital. The attitude of mind, which the two latter gentlemen are likely to bring to a judicial inquiry, is easily grasped from their speeches at the meeting referred to above. Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson is reported to have remarked that “He did not see the necessity of a Committee of Inquiry. They had to meet the accusations of one individual on three points. As regarded the occurrence of scarlet fever, there were just three cases, and there was no accusation against the Hospital there. The question of the drains was unimportant. There was nothing serious alleged against them. Then there was the third charge that the mortality for the year had been heavy. The mortality in Hospitals varied from year to year, and last year many urgent cases had been brought to the Hospital in carriages and had been taken in out of feelings of humanity. Three of the cases ending in death did not come properly under the category of the Hospital cases. He did not think the charges justified such an inquiry.” Dr. Robert Barnes said, “They were glad to hear that expression of opinion from Mr. Hutchinson, who had been President of the College of Surgeons. He thought the whole thing would end in a fiasco, and that Dr. Parkes would be condemned for his hasty judgment, for going beyond his province, and for speaking of things he was ignorant of or which he wilfully misrepresented. Had the charges been made against any individual member of the staff an action for libel would have been taken against Dr. Parkes. He would suggest that they go to the whole medical profession, who would vindicate the action of the Hospital authorities. Notice of every operation done in the Hospital had been given in the medical journals in order that medical men might come to see them. He did not see the necessity of the inquiry proposed.” Is it fair that these gentlemen, interested as they naturally are in disproving the accusations made against their colleagues by Dr. Louis Parkes, and who have already prejudged the case should be selected to adjudicate on the matter. To me it appears to be contrary both to honourable custom and even to equity.”

* * *

BARON HIRSCH, who last year distributed among selected charities a sum of about £42,000, has this year, says *The Lancet*, provided a sum of £15,000 to be divided among London Hospitals and charitable Institutions. The London Hospital is the recipient of £1,000 and the Brompton Hospital for Consumption receives £600, while St. George's Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital each receives £500. The remaining amount has been divided among the various other charities in sums of from £500 to £100, the French Hospital and the Jewish Convalescent Home both participating in the distribution. The amount given by Baron HIRSCH to charities last year represented his gross turf winnings in public stakes for the years 1891-92. At the end of the season 1893 his winnings amounted to £7,500, but, this sum being so small in comparison with his bequests of last year, he has generously doubled the amount. Baron HIRSCH's example is well worthy of imitation by other magnates of the turf.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)