

the growing feeling amongst the lay public that the time has come to reconsider the position of our Hospitals and the methods of their maintenance. As we have several times said in these columns, we believe that there is a very serious crisis approaching for many of these Institutions, and that before long some, at any rate, of them will be compelled to close their doors.

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THE National Dental Hospital and College held its Annual Dinner of past and present students last Friday, in the Holborn Restaurant. The Chairman, Sir WALTER B. FOSTER, M.P., hoped the day was not far distant when the teeth of all children attending elementary schools would be periodically examined. Skilled dental treatment was now given to soldiers and sailors, and, in consequence, their health was better, and the country better served.

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THE Committee of Management of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, have arranged for the reception of Jewish patients, as well as for their treatment as out-patients, in case of sickness, from and after to-day. Dr. ABRAM COHEN has been added to the medical staff of the institution in order to attend to Jewish inmates, and special Nurses will also be engaged. A "kosher" kitchen has been provided, and every facility will be given to Jews to observe their religious rites and customs.

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A BALL will be held in Lincoln's Inn Hall on Wednesday, December 19th, in aid of The New Hospital for Women, Euston Road. Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary, 184, Belsize Road, N.W.

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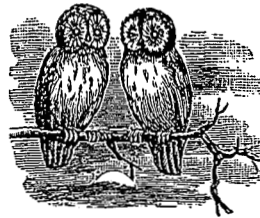
THE North-Eastern Hospital for Children (Hackney Road, Shoreditch), is in great pecuniary difficulties. It had in hand only £94 last week with which to pay bills received for £818, and expected Christmas bills amounting to about £500. In addition to this there is a debt (on mortgage at 4 per cent.) of £4500, resulting from deficits of past years. An urgent appeal is therefore being made for more funds.

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LAST week a deputation of the Church Society for the Promotion of Kindness to Animals presented to the Public Health Committee of the London County Council a memorial asking that public abattoirs be substituted for the present private slaughter-houses. Among the deputation were the Bishop of Southwark, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson (Chairman of the London Model Abattoir Society), and Dr. Norman Kerr. If this reform be carried out, undoubtedly the quality of meat sold would be improved, and consequently there would be less danger to health. Indeed, if

for no other reason, the institution of abattoirs deserves support inasmuch as it would result in a more humane slaughter of the animals necessary for food.

Matrons in Council.



At the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Matrons' Council which was held on the 3rd inst., it was arranged that the next Council Meeting and Conference should take place on the 17th of January, at 3 and 8 o'clock respectively. At the latter a Paper will be read by Miss Mollett, Matron of the Royal South Hants Infirmary, Southampton (and one of the pioneers of Nursing reform), on "Matrons under the Poor Law." At the present time, when so much interest is being evinced in the appeal made by Miss Pattison, Matron of the Lewisham Infirmary, to the Local Government Board, the subject of the Paper is peculiarly appropriate. Tickets can be obtained for the Conference, price 1/-, by all interested in the subject, and who are not members of the Matrons' Council, by application to Mrs. Andrews, Secretary, 22, Cheyne Gardens, Chelsea, S.W.

MAUD ANDREWS.

MADAM,—I should be glad to write a few lines respecting the letter signed "Guardian," in last week's RECORD. Everyone knows that a large institution always demands from its officials much tact and consideration in their mutual relations, for all their work naturally dovetails, and they are all dependent upon one another for the completion of their individual work; but it is the duty of those who have the framing of the rules under which that work is carried on to see that they are founded on such a just basis, that the petty intrigues and degrading tyrannies which so often take the place of "tact and consideration" between the Matron and Medical Superintendent of a Work-house Infirmary should be an unnecessary impossibility.

The arrangement by which the Matron, and not the Medical Officer, is held directly responsible to the Board for the discipline and good order of the female staff is so simple and so obviously the best, that I cannot understand any one objecting to such an entirely reasonable disposition—for it is impossible for any one to desire the present system to continue; a system that is directly and solely responsible for an enormous amount of most unseemly friction between the two heads of departments that should seldom or never clash.

Only the other day I heard of an excellent Medical Superintendent saying, after a stormy interview with his Matron: "We should be the best of friends if we had not to work together"—and they *would* be the best of friends if only the laws which govern the internal management of an Infirmary would assign to each individually that portion of the government which Nature and all the laws of the Old Man and the

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