

Manufacturers to Her Majesty.



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Edítorial.

SPECIAL HOSPITALS.

O^{NE} of the most vexed questions in the medical world, at the present day, concerns the comparative advantages of general and of special Hospitals.

On the one side, it is pointed out that special Hospitals are institutions of comparatively modern growth—and, by certain people, things which are new are always regarded with dis-It is also said that general Hospitals like. subserve every purpose to which special Hospitals can be put, and that in consequence the latter institutions are quite unnecessary for the public welfare. Finally, the argument is advanced that not only are special Hospitals novel and unnecessary, but that they also work great harm alike to the older general Hospitals and to the Medical Schools; to the latter, because they withdraw from the observation of medical students a most valuable class of cases, and by so much, therefore, lessen their experience and their knowledge; to the former, because they withdraw subscriptions from the charitable which are urgently needed by the general Hospitals, if they are to continue to perform their invaluable duty to the public. It is, however, upon all sides, admitted that

It is, however, upon all sides, admitted that the uprising of special Hospitals is entirely due to the fact that the general Hospitals did not formerly supply a public want in the direction of distinct departments for the treatment of special cases. For example, it has been shown, times without number, that until a separate Hospital for Women was instituted, the treatment of their special complaints was to a large ex-



