

The Council of the Hospital Saturday Fund have decided to hold their third annual Athletic and Cycling Sports in aid of the Medical Charities of London at Herne Hill, on Saturday, May 25th.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital has just issued its Handbook for the Summer Session, which contains some interesting matter, and tells of progressive work professionally and socially. Coming down to actual figures it is astonishing to learn that during the year 1893 the number of in-patients under treatment was 6,855, and of out-patients 175,783, besides 1,828 women attended in confinements at their own homes.

The various Clubs of St. Bartholomew's have been amalgamated, and in this way the students have opportunities for social intercourse and the recreation which the various clubs afford, at a very moderate cost. By the payment of a single subscription of six guineas on entering the Hospital, the student becomes a life member of the Abernethian Society, which is for the reading and discussion of medical and scientific papers, and to which a valuable reading-room is attached, and he also becomes a member of the Athletic, Boating, Cricketing, Lawn Tennis, Football and Swimming Clubs, so that he can find a full and complete satisfaction for any or all of his athletic or sporting tendencies, and can look forward to "happy evenings" and gorgeous summer Saturday afternoons at the beautiful Club Ground at Winchmore Hill.

The students of St. Bartholomew's also issue a monthly Journal intended for circulation amongst past and present Bart.'s men, and is a very interesting publication.

Dr. Albert Carless, of King's College Hospital, in speaking at a recent meeting in Exeter Hall in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, sounded a very depressing and pessimistic note, when he referred "to the continual increase of immorality, and claimed that the result was being felt in a very noticeable manner in all the London Hospitals. The number of patients attending these institutions would be reduced quite 60 per cent., if the people developed the power of self-restraint and self-control."

This is a very important matter, and one which should be brought prominently under public notice. The relation of health to morality, and the *mens sana in corpore sano*, needs specially to be brought before boys and young men. In these days of superior education and enlightenment, a statement like the above is rather a shock. Surely the efforts in favour of temperance and good living are counting for something?

Of Mr. Passmore Edwards' generosity it would appear there is no end. The cry is "still he gives." The new wing of the West Ham Hospital, Stratford, which has just been opened, had, as it were, its principal feather supplied by him—the initial £2,000 having formed the nucleus of the sum which was necessary to build and equip this addition to the Hospital, which consists of two wards, one named the "Eleanor Passmore Edwards," and the other the "Mr. J. R. Roberts," that gentleman having contributed £1,000 to the funds.

At the opening ceremony of this new wing at the West Ham Hospital, the wards were declared open "in the name of the Great Architect of the universe." The addition of these two new wards gives twenty-four more beds to the Hospital.

The Abernethian Society of St. Bartholomew's Hospital will celebrate its Centenary on May 1st, with a social evening and rejoicings suitable to such an interesting occasion.

Science Notes.

FEMALE OFFENDERS.

PROFESSOR LOMBROSO, who claimed some time ago to have discovered that the nervous system of woman is less highly organised than that of man, has published a work on "The Female Offenders." Many of the conclusions contained therein are as much in need of proof and appear as improbable to the average reader as the former discovery of this scientific (?) man.

His assertions are frequently such that in their very nature they are not capable of proof or of contradiction. Who can tell what were the customs of primitive man? Prof. Lombroso gives his ideas on this subject, but it may be remarked that they are not in accord with those of Darwin and Sir John Lubbock.

According to Prof. Lombroso promiscuous intercourse was a characteristic of the primitive human race, but there is nothing to prove it. Analogy indeed, suggests the contrary condition. The higher animals (including apes) are pairing animals. Darwin, in the "Descent of Man" relates how a polygamous chief was perfectly scandalised at the utter barbarism of living with only one wife, and never parting until separated by death—"just like the Wanderoo monkeys," he said.

At one time it is remarked that female offenders "lie with more coherency and audacity" than males; at another, "the denials and excuses made by female offenders are marked by *absurdity* and elaboration." What can the reader gather from this? That in the first case the author was so intent on showing up the wickedness of woman that he gave more credit than he meant to her intellect; then he wished to show her mental inferiority, so he contradicted his previous statement.

Even if women carefully study Prof. Lombroso's book it will not help them very much to avoid being criminals! If they remain uneducated are they not more likely to slip back to the condition of "primordial woman"? Let them therefore be educated; but education is a great cause of female crime. It may result in theft, in prostitution and in suicide. If woman is highly educated she finds no use for her knowledge; there are too many teachers for the supply of pupils, and the "ordinary man dislikes to marry a well-instructed woman." Does Prof. Lombroso seriously maintain that more criminals are drawn from the class of educated women than from that of the uneducated?

The Professor's outlook must be very black indeed, for in addition to all her other enormities the wicked woman lives longer than the average. In his opinion, too, women are but slightly capable of friendship for each other. Poor woman!

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