

devotes to those enterprises with which he associates himself, than some journals which so little realize the extreme common sense and frankness of character of the Prince as to pretend that every scheme to which he gives his patronage must, of necessity, be perfect. An unfortunate consequence of the just popularity of most members of the Royal Family has been that they very rarely are told the real feelings of the public; and in our judgment, those journals which adopt an outspoken attitude are actuated by the real respect and loyalty which inspire statements of truth rather than misleading concealment of the truth in the shape of unctuous flattery.

Those who know behind the scenes read with considerable regret the remarks which were made by various gentlemen present at the meeting of the Council of the Fund last week, and which assumed that the Fund had been perfectly successful, and that any objection which had been made concerning it was "a miserable kind of controversy." It would have been wiser to admit that the Fund has not been popular with the public, and that, at the present moment, there is a very considerable amount of dissatisfaction and discontent felt with its proceedings.

On February 5th, 1897, the Prince publicly asked for assistance for the Metropolitan Hospitals, and mentioned that "one hundred and twenty-two" of these institutions had, in 1895, exceeded their income "by over £70,000." He, therefore, asked for an annual income of from £100,000 to £150,000 in their support, in small sums, from those who had not previously subscribed to the hospitals. As a matter of fact, in its first year the Fund received, in annual subscriptions, £21,500, mostly in large sums. This amount, it was expected, would be given by the Fund to the Metropolitan Hospitals generally. But it has been divided amongst thirteen Institutions, and similar amounts have been promised to these same Hospitals in future years. In fact, the whole income of the Fund from annual subscriptions has been already allocated.

Not only, therefore, has extreme dissatisfaction been felt and expressed, but it is asked by what justification the resolution we have quoted has been adopted by the Fund. The donations which have been received and which have been invested will probably produce an income of about £6000 a year, out of which, of course, the working expenses of the Fund will have to be paid. A scheme has been

organized for selling photograph albums and stamps, and it is hoped that this will produce a certain income. Last year, from the sale of such stamps, and with immense labour, advertisements, and expense, the sum of £34,000 is said to have been raised. But it may be taken for granted that the same result will not be achieved this year; and that in each succeeding twelve months, as the novelty dies away, the receipts will become more and more attenuated.

The question, therefore, is being very fairly asked why the Prince's Hospital Fund should propose to hold an inquiry in order to allocate funds which are more or less doubtful of attainment. Above all things, there is the strongest dislike expressed to such an inquiry being private. It is urged with much force that the inference is that the results are expected by the Council to be so bad, that they could not be published for fear of either injuring the Hospitals or diverting subscriptions from the Fund. No possible good can be gained by secrecy, and the mere suggestion that the Council consider that their investigation must be kept private is calculated to be most harmful to the reputation, and, therefore, to the financial welfare, of the Metropolitan Hospitals.

Annotations.

CHELSEA INFIRMARY NURSING.

THE nursing arrangements at the Chelsea Workhouse Infirmary are once more brought before the public—through the gruesome medium of an inquest, this time. A child of ten months old died suddenly. From the reports published in the press, it appears that the night-nurse in charge of the wards was called away, and that, apparently, no one took her place. According to one report, the nurse, in her evidence, stated that she was sometimes compelled to be "absent from the wards for three-quarters of an hour." On this occasion, she was only away for twenty minutes, and, on returning, found the child in question lying on the floor, as it had fallen out of its cot. It appeared to the nurse to be all right, and so she put it back in bed, said nothing to the doctor about the matter, and two days later the child suddenly died. At the post-mortem examination, it was found that the child had a fractured skull, but the

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