

stated, "have visited and inspected carefully the various hospitals," and of these it is said "that nearly half may be termed experts in hospital management." The ostensible object of the Committee of Inspection was to discover whether the institution inspected was carried on efficiently and was properly managed. The inquiry, therefore, to be at all useful, should have been complete, and should have covered the medical, the nursing and domestic, and the administrative departments—each one of which is essential to the welfare of the patients and to the usefulness of a Hospital. With regard to the medical department, the physicians and surgeons named as investigators, who are presumably those alluded to as "experts," are most excellently qualified to judge. But we feel confident that hardly any of these gentlemen, and probably only one of their lay colleagues, would claim any definite knowledge of either the domestic management, or of the nursing arrangements of the institutions they visited. As the Committee of Inquiry does not include a single Matron or nurse, nor even one woman, we are compelled to believe that one of the three chief departments of every hospital visited was not properly investigated. While, therefore, we can safely assume that the eleven lay members of the Committee carefully inquired into the secretarial departments, it remains that one-third of the work necessary to a complete investigation of the Hospitals concerned can not have been efficiently carried out. We lay the more stress upon this matter, because it is part of a much larger and even more important question.

But the point which we wish specially to emphasize, is that, with the centralization of the funds of Hospitals, under the management of the Committee of the Prince of Wales' or any other Fund, the control of the Metropolitan Hospitals will pass into the hands of the half dozen or so active members of that Committee, who may exercise an authority which will hinder the natural and individual development of these institutions. We are of opinion that whatever form of control a Central Committee may exercise, the contributions of the charitable should be given directly to the funds of those institutions of which they approve. If hospitals are financed from a central Fund, the general public will have no power of expressing its disapproval of the management of any particular Institution, except by depriving all Hospitals of their benefactions.

Annotations.

THE OLD EGYPT AND THE NEW.

THE Sirdar's Fund for a Gordon Memorial at Khartoum is being liberally supported, and will, no doubt, soon reach the figure required—£100,000. In his appeal the Sirdar gave expression to the hope of national good resulting from his educational scheme for the Soudan, and we have no doubt much good will result from the technical education of the boys. Personally, we should have felt more enthusiastic had the proposal included the education of both sexes, which, in our opinion, is the only basis upon which to build up a self-reliant nation. We observe that, except Lady Burdett Coutts, who appealed for financial support from the women of England, women are not offered the responsibility of representation on the Council or Committee of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum. This contempt for the humanity of woman in the Soudan at the end of the nineteenth century, and under the patronage of one of the world's most powerful Queens, arouses a deep sense of indignation and grief in the minds of those who realise that Egypt was great in the ages when men and women were equal, and that with the enslavement of the woman it relapsed into barbarism. The future Governors of the Soudan must realise that it is only by extending the advantages of civilization to both sexes, that any true and real advancement can be effected in a nation's progress.

NEITHER WELL, NOR WISE.

WE usually read the *Charity Record* with interest and approval, but in an editorial note headed, "Let well alone," the liberal and common-sense policy of this bright little paper is, for once, discarded. This is in relation to the plucky conduct of Miss Georgiana Hill at the Annual Meeting of the subscribers of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, at Putney. She, as we reported last week, proposed the most reasonable resolution that women should be eligible to sit on the Committee of Management of that institution.

The Editor of the *Charity Record* thinks that the exclusion of women from participation in the management of this public institution is wise—and adds, "that in the best interests of the Charity we would fain hope that this lady will now let the matter drop."

Now as an expert in matters in relation to the management of charitable institutions for the care of the sick, we would ask the Editor of the *Charity Record* if in his opinion good or evil

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