

were caused to this man, and death might easily have resulted; yet it was gravely stated by Mr. Jeffery that, with these facts before them, the majority of the Committee decided to stifle all further inquiry. According to our contemporary, when the matter was publicly raised, the Chairman "hurriedly" placed Mr. Jeffery's amendment to the meeting of the Board, and without any discussion upon it, it was defeated by twelve votes to five. In other words, the Guardians determined that the facts should not be laid before the Local Government Board. We can only express our opinion that the Guardians of Chelsea have made a very strange mistake if they imagine that, at the end of the nineteenth century, they can burke inquiry into a matter so closely affecting the lives of the poor admitted into the Infirmery—for the proper management of which they are responsible. According to the statement made by one of their number, the life of a patient was placed in the gravest jeopardy and a fatal result might easily have followed. Either the Medical Officer and Mr. Jeffery have made statements which are devoid of truth, or the management of the nursing department of the Chelsea Infirmery requires to be most carefully investigated. Any Guardian who attempts to stifle discussion or further inquiry into this matter will take upon himself a responsibility which he has no legal or moral right to assume. We express no opinion as to the accuracy of the facts. But we demand—and we call upon those of our contemporaries in the Press who consider that the poor are as deserving of humane treatment as the rich, also to demand—for the sake of the inmates of Chelsea Infirmery, and as the only possible method of ascertaining the truth, and thus removing whatever danger may at present exist, that the Local Government Board should at once institute a public inquiry into this matter.

Annotations.

THE HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

A MEETING of the Council of this Fund, it is stated in *The Times*, was held on the 26th ult. at the Mansion House to receive the report of the committee of distribution, and to order the payment of awards to hospitals and dispensaries. The Lord Mayor (president and treasurer) occupied the chair, and among those

present were the Sheriffs, Sir Sydney H. Waterlow (vice-president), and Mr. Henry N. Custance (the secretary).

The Lord Mayor, in opening the proceedings, said he desired to thank the Council for their endeavours to provide for the sick poor of London, through the agency of hospitals, by making awards to those institutions according to their merits and needs. He at the same time desired to express his gratitude to the public generally for their response to his appeal in the London newspapers especially to raise this year the sum of £50,000, which had already been exceeded; and he congratulated the Council on the fact that the total of £1,000,000 which the latter had been so anxious to realize during the current year had been already reached and somewhat exceeded. That was the sum which had been received since the establishment of the fund in 1873. He especially desired to thank Mr. George Herring for his munificent donation of £10,000 and Mr. Densham for his contribution of 1,000 guineas.

Sir Sydney Waterlow then proposed a resolution approving the report of the committee of distribution for the year, "and that the several awards recommended be paid as soon as possible." He remarked that that was the 27th time that he had the privilege of proposing this resolution—that was to say, ever since the fund was started. He thought that all who were interested in the fund would feel that, as it had been working under difficulties during the last three or four years, the large amount collected this year was evidence that the fund still retained the confidence of the public, and that it rested on a solid Christian basis. The Lord Mayor had stated that they had this year made up the total amount received to £1,000,000, but up to that moment the sum received had been £1,008,363; and beyond that the fund had the interest on £45,000 of Consols left by the Guesdon trust and the reversion to £50,000 on the death of a lady. When the committee began, in 1874, 17 general hospitals asked help from them, whereas the number this year was 31; the six convalescent homes had increased to 29, and the three cottage hospitals to 14. In 1874, only 1,100 collections in places of worship were taken by the fund, but this year they had taken or would take collections from 1,900 places of worship. The council were now asked to confirm the granting of awards amounting to £50,000, and, in addition, to

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