

THE POSITION OF GERMAN MEDICAL WOMEN.

THERE was a large attendance of members at the meeting of the Berlin Medical Society, which took place last month, when a motion standing in the names of Dr. Zadek and Dr. Freudenberg, concerning the admission of ladies into the Society was discussed. The galleries of the Society's room were crowded with visitors, including ladies. According to Article 4 of the bye-laws, only duly qualified medical men are eligible for membership of this Society. It is held, therefore, that ladies are doubly ineligible, first because, having obtained their qualifications abroad, they are regarded by German law as unqualified practitioners, and secondly because in the bye-law in question the term "doctor promotus" (not promoti) is used. A long, and animated, and somewhat tumultuous, discussion followed the proposition of Dr. Zadek, and Dr. Freudenberg that medical women, as well as medical men should be eligible. The committee of the Society interpreted the bye-law that only a duly qualified medical person was eligible, as excluding holders of the M.D. degree without the State qualification. Dr. Zadek, on the contrary, urged that the Society ought not to regard the diploma but the scientific attainments of the candidate, and that it was unjust to reject women because they were not legally qualified according to the present state of German law. Speaking in the name of the committee of the Society, Professor Virchow said that the Berlin Society was not a body instituted for the purpose of determining the professional competence of individuals, they had only to inquire whether a candidate possessed the State qualification or not. The Society could not create a medical qualification not granted by the State. The motion of Dr. Zadek was rejected, and that of the committee accepted by a large majority. There is no doubt, however, that the just measure proposed by Dr. Zadek and Dr. Freudenberg must ultimately be adopted. Germany cannot for ever maintain its oriental attitude to women if it is to rank as a great power.

DUTY TO THE PATIENT.

THE question has recently been raised as to whether anyone has a right to refuse to the children of a dying inmate permission to visit their parent in a hospital or workhouse infirmary. We do not think that anyone in authority would refuse to give the required permission, except for the strongest reasons, as, for instance, that there was still a chance of

the patient's recovery, and the excitement caused by visitors might turn the scale on the adverse side. If the patient is actually dying, and the visits of relations can have no prejudicial effect upon his condition, his name should be posted on the Danger List, and his near relatives admitted at all times, both on the ground of the possible pleasure afforded to the dying man, and also in order that the friends may see for themselves that all that is possible is being done for him. Discretion as to whether visitors shall be admitted must, however, rest with some one, and the medical officer who is responsible for the treatment of the patient is, without doubt, the proper person to decide the question. In the case of any patient who is seriously ill, if express orders are not given by the medical man in attendance, his wishes should be ascertained by the nurse in charge and faithfully carried out. Most relations would, we believe, be satisfied if told that the doctor considered any excitement bad for the patient, but that as soon as was consistent with his well-being they should be admitted.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL OF TROPICAL DISEASES.

THE Liverpool School of Tropical diseases, established in connection with Liverpool University College, and the Royal Southern Hospital, has just issued its first annual report, which is exceedingly interesting. The Chairman of the School is Mr. Alfred L. Jones, who has promised an annual contribution of £350 for three years. After referring to the course of work at the school, the report states that abundant cases of tropical disease have been treated in the special hospital ward in the year, 176 cases in all being treated. Of these 152 were malarial fever cases, two malarial neuritis, three blackwater fever, five dysentery, three sprue, one diarrhoea, one Malta fever, five beriberi, two hepatic abscess, one scurvy, and one Bilharzia disease. Only six of the patients died. Of the total treated, 151 were English, five Norwegians, three Germans, three Finns, two Swedes, three Lascars, two Italians, two Chinese, and one each American, Dutch, Spanish, Malay, and Austrian. The patients were nearly all seafarers. The most important result achieved was the despatch of an expedition to West Africa, with Major Ross at its head, the results of which have been in the highest degree satisfactory, and a valuable report in regard to it is shortly to be issued.

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