

The Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London.

At the first meeting this year of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London, which was held at the Bank of England to-day, the 8th of February, 1901, it was unanimously agreed, on behalf of the council, to place on record "our profound sorrow at the great loss we, in common with the rest of the Empire, have sustained in the death of our beloved Sovereign, Queen Victoria, and also to express our loyal duty and service in the form of a respectful address to His Gracious Majesty King Edward the Seventh" as follows:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,—

We, the Executive Committee of the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund for London, at this our first Meeting of the present year, held at the Bank of England on this day, the 8th February, 1901, beg hereby to record and to express on behalf of the Council our profound sorrow at the great loss all those associated with this Fund have, in common with the rest of the Empire, sustained in the death of our wise and beloved sovereign, Queen Victoria, who consistently throughout her life always displayed the tenderest interest and sympathy in the sufferings of her people, both rich and poor alike. The fact that this Fund was inaugurated by Your Majesty in the year 1897, with the definite object "to commemorate the sixtieth year of the Queen's Reign," adds to this sad moment a solemnity to the trust reposed in us, and makes our great loss, if possible, more keenly felt. We loyally and respectfully tender our deepest sympathy to Your Majesty and to your Illustrious Consort in the sad bereavement Your Majesties and all the members of the Royal Family have sustained. We further desire to express our warmest hopes that Your Majesty and the Queen your Royal Consort may enjoy a happy and prosperous reign as Rulers of this great Empire.

On behalf of the Committee,

HUGH C. SMITH, Chairman.
DUNCANNON } Hon. Secs.
J. G. CRAGGS }

Mr. Burdett-Coutts Criticises.

Mr. Burdett-Coutts whose impeachment of the state of the South African Hospitals compelled the appointment of the Commission, criticises in most trenchant language the Commission's Report in letters to the Press.

"The report," he says, "is so weak, inconclusive, and equivocal that, while it affords a complete confirmation of every charge I have laid against the medical arrangements in the war, it can be construed into a vindication, almost as satisfactory, of everything that has occurred, and of every person, authority, and department concerned. Defects are minimised and obscured in nature and extent as well as cause and result by the effort, painfully sustained throughout the report, to find qualifying and apologetic phrases in which to wrap up everything that tells against official or individual perfection."

"In hardly a single case mentioned in the report," he adds, "is the responsibility for defects pushed home to its true cause; nor are their results, widespread, injurious, and fatal, adequately described."

[We shall deal with the Report next week.—Ed.]

The Case of Miss Rogers, R.B.N.A.

The Local Government Board inquiry into the matter at issue between Miss Rogers, Superintendent of Nurses, and the Guardians, took place on Tuesday, the 5th inst. last, at the East Preston Board-room, before Mr. J. S. Davy and Mr. A. Fuller, of the Medical Department of the Local Government Board. Miss Rogers was represented by Mr. Hy. Prince (Prince and Co., Brighton and London), whilst Mr. W. P. G. Boxall instructed by Mr. E. B. Wannop, of Littlehampton, conducted the Guardians' case.

The inquiry was to ascertain if the Local Government Board were justified in withholding their consent to the dismissal of Miss Rogers as desired by the Guardians. A short discussion having arisen as to the procedure to be adopted, Mr. Davy intimated that he thought it would be best for Miss Rogers to state her case first, and then he could hear what the Guardians had to say.

EVIDENCE BY MISS ROGERS.

Miss Margaret Frances Rogers was then sworn, and deposed, in answer to Mr. Prince, that she was appointed Superintendent Nurse at East Preston twelve months ago last September. Before that she was Matron and Superintendent Nurse at East Grinstead for four years, and, previous to that, was at Ticehurst just over eight years, and at Kensington, for midwifery training, for three months. She held the certificate of the London Obstetric Society for midwifery, and that of the London Homœopathic for general work. The condition of affairs on her arrival at East Preston was very bad throughout. There were practically no medical appliances in the Infirmary. There was, for instance, no scissors or forceps; there were no bandages in store except those that were being used; there was only one bed cradle, and that was broken; and there were then consumptive patients in the ward using open spittoons. The nightstools were mostly of iron, and smelt very badly; and the bowls were of paper maché, very old, and used for all washing purposes, and wound-dressing as well. The only medicines she had were cough mixture, aperients, and diarrhœa mixture. The doctor resided at a distance of three or four miles from the Workhouse, and only attended twice a week, unless specially sent for. The stock of clothing and underlinen was very short, and it had been short until about twelve weeks ago. Since she had been at East Preston inmates had worn their flannel vests for five and six weeks, neckerchiefs for six and seven weeks, and one man wore his worsted stockings for ten weeks. Witness had spoken to the Matron time after time with reference to the supply of more clothing, but for

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