

Cardiff Infirmary. At the annual meeting of Governors the Mayor handed over the strip of paper amounting to £11,272 17s. 6d., and emancipated the institution from a bond which has kept it in constant trouble for the past seven years. The total of this welcome cheque was made up as follows:—Mayor of Cardiff's Fund, £5,697 5s. 6d.; *Western Mail* Shilling Fund, £5,375 12s. 0d.; Mayor of Cowbridge's Fund, £200 Total, £11,272 17s. 6d.

There is a very simple task now in front of the board of management. They must (again to refer to the mayor) make their reliable, permanent income come up to the standard necessary to run the establishment at its full strength and efficiency. There must be no more rash ventures upon the faith of second-hand promises. The principles that a business man puts into action for his own private affairs must control the infirmary. With that, the result will be satisfactory.

The South African Hospitals Commission has cost £9,000—it will be cheap at the price, if weak and inconclusive as it is, it arouses a determination upon the part of the taxpayer to insist upon the efficient treatment and nursing of our sick soldiers.

In answer to questions as to their treatment in the field hospitals, a number of wounded men from South Africa paid a tribute to Mr. Burdett-Coutt's exertions by remarking, "It's been better since the row."

At Cleveland (Ohio) Mr. W. S. Rogers, the president of the Brush Electric Company, has such faith in the cure of consumption by electricity that he proposes to form a syndicate to work it upon commercial lines.

The Unionist members of the Liverpool City Council have decided to offer the freedom of the city to Mr. B. Levy, trustee to the munificent David Lewis Bequest out of which the Northern Hospital is being rebuilt while the Nurses' Home and other philanthropic institutions have benefitted; and to Mr. Henry Yates Thompson whose benefactions to the city include a fine palm-house in Sefton Park. It is understood that the Liberals are in accord with the Conservatives in this matter.

The Diocesan Inspector of Schools for Salop reports some amusing answers of his victims, which throw a rather lurid light on the efficiency of religious instruction in some Church Schools. One urchin defined "False Doctrine" to be "doctoring when it does not do you any good;" another said it was "when you are bad, and the doctor's medicine makes you worse"—evidently an unpleasant personal experience.

In "Annals of a Doss House" Mr. Sydney Halifax depicts life in a common lodging-house, where, it may be truly said, the flotsam and jetsam of humanity, from the university medallist to the child born in the workhouse, are to be met with. The author resided for ten years in East London, during which time his religious and philanthropic work afforded him special opportunities of gaining an insight into the life of those frequenting these dwellings. He gives a vivid description of the terrible existence endured by many of our fellow-creatures. The book will be read with considerable interest by those who specially concern themselves with certain social questions.

### The Central Poor Law Conference.

Amongst the interesting papers read at the Central Poor Law Conference at the Guildhall last week was one on

THE REMOVAL OF CHILDREN FROM WORKHOUSES, read by the Hon. Mrs. Cropper, a Guardian of the Kendal Union, who tersely put the case in a nutshell. As long as the workhouse was the temporary or final place of refuge for the idle, the dissolute, and the drunkard, so long it was unfit that the same building should receive the innocent children. In the course of the discussion which followed Mr. J. W. Wilson (Sheffield) advocated the age at which children should be removed from the workhouse as two rather than three years as advocated by Mrs. Cropper, on the ground that children had acquired the habit of using bad language before they were three years of age.

#### THE REMOVAL OF IMBECILES, EPILEPTICS, AND FEEBLE-MINDED FROM WORKHOUSES.

The Rev. W. H. H. Fairclough (Burton-on-Trent Union) contributed a paper on the above subject, and urged the establishment of homes by the County Council for this class of patient who could not be satisfactorily classified or cared for in the wards of the smaller workhouses. The cost of the erection and maintenance of these Homes would be great at first, but he firmly believed that in the end the rates would be saved, and the reproduction of the class for which they provided would be lessened, besides which they would be the means of preventing many from being sent to the more expensive lunatic asylum.

The Hon. F. Strutt (Belper) said as a Member of the Asylum Visiting Committee for Derbyshire, that it was a sad and serious thing to see among the 600 lunatics there little children of six and seven years of age with nobody to take care of them and teach them. They were only imbeciles, and if they had the advantage of some training and education, they might be made comparatively useful members of Society.

#### THE AGED DESERVING POOR.

Miss B. Walton Evans (St. Asaph's Union) read a paper on the aged deserving poor in the course of which she said that the striking feature in the Local Government Board letter of August last, was the recommendation that classification in dealing with paupers be sanctioned. Personally she welcomed classification, for the sound teaching of Mill, that the situation of the relieved should not be made so eligible as the situation of the independent labourer of the lowest class was being steadily ignored. It was unjust to the industrious working man that he should see the idle, dissolute, and drunken, faring almost better than himself and in a state of comfort really exceeding what he enjoyed at home, while he had to strive his utmost to keep his aged relatives off the rates. It was also unjust that those who had led the lives of good citizens should, when driven to apply to the State for assistance be classified with the rogue and the vagabond. The idle, drunken, and immoral should be given only the barest consideration, while the deserving and respectable should have more liberal treatment than they now obtained under the most enlightened Boards.

The members of the Conference, at the conclusion of the papers, passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that it was desirable that the younger imbeciles, epileptics, and the feeble-minded should be provided for by Boards of Guardians in special institutions outside the workhouse.

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