

duty in the surgery day and night. Is it right or seemly that doctors and porters should deal with unconscious female patients, without the presence and assistance of a nurse? We commend the point to the Committee of the King's Hospital Fund. It is one which, no doubt, would receive immediate attention if women had seats, as they should have, on the Committee of the Fund. If the public mind is impressed that such scandals as we have related above occur in connection with hospitals, there is little doubt that an impetus will be given to the municipalisation and popular control of these institutions.

Annotations.

HOSTEL OF ST. LUKE.

The Archbishop of York presided at the annual meeting of that truly beneficent institution, the Hostel of St. Luke, held at the Church House, Westminster.

The report of the Council for 1902 states that the work of the Hostel showed an increase on the previous year, a total of 127 patients (as against 121 and 115 in the two previous years) having been treated. Of these, 84 were in-patients and 43 out-patients, and 25 received free medical and surgical treatment, and contributed something to their expenses in the Hostel. Regret was expressed for the loss of their President, the late Primate, and of the Bishop of St. Albans, one of the Vice-Presidents. The receipts during the year from subscriptions and donations (including offertories) were £2,464, being nearly £400 in excess of those for 1901, while the receipts for the Building Fund were £286, against £220. The total expenditure for the year was £2,260, against £2,210 for 1901.

The Chairman, in the course of an address, reminded his hearers that they were not assembled to support a new venture, but a well-established and noble institution. No one knew so well as a Bishop the necessity and value of an institution such as the Hostel of St. Luke, in which the poorer members of the clergy when attacked with illness could obtain medical advice and surgical treatment from the most eminent men in the profession. He mentioned instances which had come under his observation of the benefits rendered by the Hostel to poor country clergymen, and of the gratitude felt by those who had experienced its advantages. He paid a high tribute to the medical profession throughout the country for

their kindness in treating the poor, and concluded by earnestly commending the Hostel to the generous support of all Churchmen.

A resolution was passed declaring that the increasing demand for accommodation in the Hostel calls for the increased efforts of its supporters.

SLUM-BRED STARVELINGS.

Go where you will in these days—in the West of the wealthiest city in the world—you are bound to halt sooner or later on the pavement, before crossing the street, so that hundreds upon hundreds of men, well guarded by our stalwart police, may shuffle silently past you, three or four abreast, whilst picked comrades rattle little wooden collecting-boxes under your nose and solicit subscriptions for London's unemployed. To stand thus for ten minutes and carefully scrutinise each face and step, as the weary host pass by, is to experience a sense of impotence and shame, which it is to be hoped will not be without due effect resulting in personal effort to blot out this evidence of municipal misgovernment. The large majority of the stunted, ill-clad, hungry crew now parading their poverty before those who live in high places are slum-bred starvelings, and in no city worthy of the name should slums be permitted to exist. Slums are the result of the callous indifference to the housing and condition of the poor upon the part of the landlord, and the owner of a slum should be prosecuted for a criminal offence. We are entirely in sympathy with the conclusions of Mr. W. H. Thompson in his eloquent speech at the National Liberal Club: "If a great ground landlord does not provide upon his territory for a reasonable number of the men who make his wealth, then we should acquire at its site value a portion of that land to house those people."

Slums also mean over-crowded hospitals. Figures that have appeared in the daily papers during the week showing the immense sums yearly spent in ministering to the sick and injured among us may well make the nation pause to consider whether some of these millions could not be spent to better advantage, with better results for the object aimed at, if they were laid out in improving the physical and moral upbringing of our poor children who, under present conditions of slum life, are a certain and ever-increasing army of recruits to swell the number of the halt, the blind, and the lame who overflow our hospitals.

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