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Editorial.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

It will be remembered that, some months ago, the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital determined to make an appeal to the public for the funds necessary to rebuild and enlarge their institution. An outcry was at once raised in the Press against this course being taken; chiefly upon the grounds that St. Bartholomew's Hospital was a very wealthy corporation, that it occupied a site of immense money value, and that it would be greatly to the advantage of everyone concerned if it were rebuilt in some other district in which a hospital was more needed, the present site being sold. This it was estimated would not only entirely pay for the cost of the rebuilding, but would also leave a surplus besides, which would render unnecessary any direct appeal to the public for funds. It was urged that this latter fact was essential, in view of the urgent needs of the London Hospital, which was then also about to appeal for help. The result of the agitation was that the appeal of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was not made, and a Committee was appointed, partly by the Lord Mayor of London, and partly by the Governors of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, to investigate the whole matter. The Report of that Mansion House Committee was issued this week. It was asked to consider and report:—

1. Whether it is desirable in the public interest and on financial grounds to retain St. Bartholomew's Hospital on its present site.
2. In the event of the retention of the Hospital on its present site, whether any better scheme of rebuilding than that suggested by the Governors could be devised.
3. On any other matters affecting the Hospital that the Committee may think it desirable to inquire into.

The report of the Committee is signed by the Lord Mayor as its chairman, and deals with

these points *seriatim*. The Committee, with one exception, have arrived at the conclusion that it is impossible in the public interest to entertain the idea of removing the Hospital from its present site. In connection with this, the Committee found, first of all, that the proposal to remove the Hospital to St. Luke's, even if the suggested site were available, would not give the results anticipated by its advocates; and, moreover, that on that site the Hospital would be cramped for room, and would not be able to perform its duties even as efficiently as at present. They also came to the conclusion, after hearing evidence from reliable experts, that the value of the site of the Hospital had been much exaggerated, and that there would be very little, if any, ultimate money profit to the Hospital in removing the building from its present situation to any other locality. In the next place, the Committee were unanimously of opinion that important additions to, and a considerable rearrangement and improvement of, the existing buildings are necessary; but they considered that, with the additional land purchased from Christ's Hospital, there would be ample room for the provision of a thoroughly efficient hospital with every modern appliance. The Committee strongly support the appeal of the Hospital for increased funds, and it is earnestly to be hoped that that appeal will meet with the full measure of success which it deserves.

GERMAN NURSES FEDERATE.

The best bit of nursing news this week comes from Berlin. The trained nurses in Germany are co-operating, and have drawn up the Constitution of a self-governing Association of German Nurses. German women are so well educated, and their characteristics are so essentially reliable, that we have little doubt their efforts will result in the complete success they merit.

Heartly good wishes for the effective federation of trained nurses in the Fatherland from the BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

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