

### Annotations.

#### HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

The Lord Mayor presided last week at a meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund at the Mansion House, among those present being also Sir William Church, Mr. R. B. Martin, M.P., the Hon. Sydney Holland, Prebendary Ridgeway, and Sir Edmund H. Currie (the Secretary). The Council, in the report for the year ending October last, announced that the subscriptions to the fund last year amounted to £63,064 19s. 10d., while the collections in the various places of worship reached a total of £47,912 5s. 4d., that amount being, with the exception of the previous year, the largest on record. St. Paul's Cathedral headed the list with £5,490 13s., Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, contributed £1,520, and St. Michael's, Chester Square, £1,392. Regret was expressed by the Council at the fact that the appeal made to the country clergy in the home counties had been unsuccessful, as those districts furnish approximately 25 per cent. of the in-patients treated in the metropolitan hospitals. Reference was also made to the effect that Mr. George Herring had again generously added one-fourth to the amount collected in churches, his gift this year amounting to nearly £12,000. The report of the Council was approved, after some discussion on the question of publishing the result of the collections at certain churches. It was decided to insert in the next report the collections of six Church of England places of worship and those in a similar number of churches of other denominations.

#### WOMEN ON HOSPITAL BOARDS.

The value of the work of women on Hospital Boards must be evident to any impartial-minded person who considers the subject. Not only does the efficiency and popularity of a hospital depend largely on good domestic management—a province in which women have always been supreme—but the larger number of persons with whom such a Board has to deal are women, whether patients, nurses, ward-maids, or domestic staff. It is small wonder, then, that women consider that they should have representation on these Boards.

Miss Georgiana Hill, who is a well-known advocate of the appointment of women on Hospital Boards, gave an interesting address on this subject at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W., last week. She said that forty years ago there were no

women Poor Law Guardians; now they held office as Guardians, as well as other offices not formerly open to them. Considering the great service women could be to the sick in the management of hospitals, it seemed an anomaly that they should be practically debarred from that work, for at present they were either excluded, or only admitted to a certain extent on the management of hospitals of secondary importance. They had nothing whatever to do with the management of the London Hospital, Guy's Hospital, or the Westminster Hospital. All the control of the domestic arrangements of such hospitals was left in the hands of men. There were about fifty hospitals in the neighbourhood of London on whose Boards there were no women, neither were there Ladies' Committees.

In the discussion which followed, the expedient was advocated of not subscribing to hospitals which would not give women representation on their Boards.

We are in cordial sympathy with this suggestion. Women, with their fertile imaginations, and powers of obtaining money by methods which do not occur to men of business, can do much to increase the funds of an institution. Witness the successful reception in aid of the Samaritan Free Hospital held at the St. James's Theatre last week.

But though Committees will accept every penny that can be poured into a hospital's exchequer by women, they are exceedingly averse to giving them any voice in the expenditure of the money they provide, or any seats on Hospital Boards. Until such time as Committees realise the wisdom and the justice of such representation, women will do well to hold their hands, and so to make plain that they do not intend henceforth to be utilised and ignored.

#### NURSING IN TENTS.

We are always in favour of temporary hospitals for the reception of cases of an infectious nature, and the experiments of the authorities at Dewsbury, who have arranged for the accommodation of small-pox patients in canvas shelters, is an interesting one. The epidemic was spreading so rapidly that there was no time for the erection of a permanent hospital, as the disease would have been beyond control. We are slowly learning that fresh air, instead of being injurious to fever patients, is beneficial. It will be interesting to learn the result of the Dewsbury experiment.

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