

The Hospital World.

THE HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

There was unwonted animation in the usually decorous calm of a Mansion House meeting at the meeting of the constituents of the Metropolitan Sunday Fund, presided over by the Lord Mayor on Saturday last. The Honourable Stephen Coleridge and the Honourable Sydney Holland (Chairman of the London Hospital) supported their diverse views with such warmth that the Archdeacon of London appealed to the Lord Mayor as to whether all remarks should not be addressed to the chair. The discussion arose on an amendment proposed by Mr. Coleridge to the adoption of the Report. This was to have been seconded by Canon Wilberforce, but, in his absence through indisposition, an East-end clergyman, the Rev. Lionel Lewis, stepped into the breach and performed this office.

The amendment was as follows:—

“That in the opinion of the Council of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund no moneys of the fund should be assigned to any hospital which contributes to the support of the medical schools or laboratories from the general fund for the relief of patients.”

Mr. Coleridge said that a grave responsibility rested on the committee, as trustees of a fund subscribed for the sole purpose of attending the sick poor of London. Any deviation, even of a penny, in the funds subscribed for the sick poor must be regarded by all honourable people as reprehensible.

Many of the great hospitals had handed part of their money to institutions which published no accounts. What became of the money he could not say. It might go to swell the emoluments of the professors or mitigate the fees of the students.

But as it did not go for the latter purpose it must either be spent on the former object, or in support of a practice which many of them believed to be displeasing to God. That was a diversion which ought not to take place.

He represented a very large number of thoughtful people who were trying to do their duty in life. But they all knew the results which happened to those who ventured to criticise great public institutions.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis, in seconding the amendment, expressed indignation that since the Hospital Sunday Fund had granted money to the general fund of the London Hospital that institution, which before had given nothing, now granted £32,000 to its medical school.

Mr. Holland retorted that his whole life was spent in helping the sick poor. “Therefore,” he said to Mr. Lewis, “I can afford to pass by the sneers from one of your cloth.”

Mr. Holland also stated that there was “practically no vivisection at the London Hospital.”

Mr. Coleridge pointed out that it was licensed as a place for vivisection under the Act.

Mr. Holland said that was why Mr. Coleridge hated it. He was not, however, the guardian of honour in this country, and hospitals need not be alarmed by his diatribes.

Another matter mentioned by Mr. Coleridge was that he had sent a subscription to the London Hospital, which had been returned to him. Mr. Holland explained the action of the authorities, on the ground that it could not have been sent for the good of the Hospital, as Mr. Coleridge tried to do his best to harm the London Hospital. Mr. Coleridge's point of view was that he tried to reform the London Hospital. In regard to the accounts of medical colleges, Mr. Holland said that every subscriber to the London Hospital could be furnished with a copy of the accounts.

Of course Sir Henry Burdett chimed in to differ from Mr. Holland, and in such virtuous mood was he that he declared he could not permit a son of his to prosecute his medical studies at a hospital the school of which derived part of its funds from moneys subscribed for the benefit of the sick poor!! Imagine Sir Henry Burdett or his family making either cash or kudos out of the hospitals. Perish the thought!

We have always maintained that the accounts of a hospital and its medical school should be kept distinct. Then those who wish to subscribe to the relief of the sick poor and those who desire to help the cause of medical education can be assured that their gifts are used for the purposes which they intend.

Eventually Mr. Coleridge agreed to the adjournment of the discussion until next year, when the report of the King's Fund Commission as to the financial relations of certain of the London Hospitals to their medical schools and charitable subscriptions would have been received.

The Council was re-elected, with the addition of Bishop Amigo (of Southwark), the vicar of Islington, Sir James T. Ritchie, and Mr. Deputy Wallace; and June 25th, 1905, having been fixed as Hospital Sunday, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor.

In connection with the festivities for the jubilee of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception at Rome, a ceremony took place of entirely English interest—namely, the laying of the foundation-stone of the English hospital to be erected by the Nursing Sisters of the Little Company of Mary. Cardinal Respighi conducted the function, assisted by two deacons, and by the students of the English College. In the cornerstone were enclosed a parchment recording the event, signed by all the dignitaries present. After the function in the adjoining Church of Santo Stephano, Father Bernard Vaughan delivered a sermon, in which he declared that the building would supply a long-felt want in Rome among English visitors, who needed English nurses and English attention when ill. The hospital would be open to all, without distinction of creed. Cardinal Merry del Val arrived towards the end of the ceremony. He congratulated the English Sisters on their undertaking.

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