

appointment of a strong Standing Committee to act on penal cases. In brief, it is evident that for the first few years the Council would have to meet at least once a quarter, and that the various Committees, into which it would be divided would have to meet once a month, or even more frequently.

Annotations.

"EAST IS EAST; AND WEST IS WEST."

One of the hospitals which is doing a vast amount of good with due regard to economy is the East London Hospital for Children, away in Shadwell, a very unfashionable district, but one in which a hospital for children is urgently necessary. We regret to observe from the report presented by Colonel C. Needham, the Chairman, at the half-yearly court, that the expenditure far exceeds the income, and that money has been borrowed to carry on the good work. Unless more adequate support is given some drastic form of retrenchment will become imperative, such as closing a ward. This would indeed be a calamity to the East End of London, and reflect upon our common humanity. When one observes the millions of money squandered daily in veritable trash, vanity, and self-indulgence by the irresponsible rich in the West End of this metropolis, and experiences the difficulty of extracting one golden sovereign out of their well-lined jewelled purses for true charity, one sometimes despairs of human nature.

SYMPATHETIC SYMPTOMS.

There is a subtle humour, as well as a deep vein of truth, in the following quotation from a popular author:—"Many like to talk about their ailments, but few care to be excelled therein, and strong indeed is the Freemasonry between those who have similarly suffered in the flesh, and whose respective bodily infirmities have proved identical. If a man wishes to be popular (as what man does not?), let him have experienced the same ailments as have those persons whom he desires to please; but let him beware lest his symptoms are in excess of theirs, or else he will make enemies instead of friends. The most popular people during the last decade of the nineteenth century were the people who had had 'grippe' and so could discuss it in all its stages, but whose recorded temperature had always kept one degree lower than the temperature of those with whom they conversed. There is a subtle flattery in a slight inferiority of temperature which even sanctified human nature cannot resist."

Medical Matters.

A LONG SLEEP.

In the *Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift* another one of those remarkable cases of prolonged sleep is reported on by Harbst. Six years previous to her relapsing into this abnormal condition, she enjoyed the best of health, and it was only shortly prior to her prolonged slumber that she complained of a severe headache and felt drowsy, and would occasionally sleep a whole or a half day. In January, 1886, the sleep became permanent. She slept in all for seventeen years, during which time she took her nourishment and drinks. She was always raised to the sitting posture when being fed, and she would only partake of fluids and solids reduced to small particles. She made an easy subject to look after, as when for instance she was thirsty she would smack her lips, and continue this until she was given drink. When the bowels were about to be moved she would groan, and so attract attention.

During the period of seventeen years' sleep she suffered from several attacks of cold, and once had an attack of influenza, during which period of illness she refused food, and vomited on one occasion. She always kept her eyes closed and motion was unimpaired, she being able to move from side to side and move her limbs.

She suddenly awoke one morning and called to her sister, and said she had only slept one night, and felt surprised to see her brother not in uniform, he having been a soldier at the time she fell asleep. She remembered everything clearly that happened up to the time she fell asleep seventeen years previously. She had gained weight during this prolonged condition of sleep, and stated on being questioned that she had not dreamt during this period. Speaking and locomotion were at first difficult on waking, but were soon regained.

This rare phenomenon lies in the realm of inexplicables. Whether this condition is allied to hibernation, is a rare morbid manifestation of hysteria, or is of some occult influence acting continuously and morbidly on the sleep centres remains to be definitely proved.

THE NON-OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF TRACHOMA.

Dr. F. J. Parker (in *Medical Record*) advises as follows:—"After thorough cocainisation, the everted lids are rubbed hard three times a week with a cotton applicator dipped in bichloride 1 in 500. At home, iced cloths and drops of an

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