

The King's Hospital Fund.

Messrs Campion and Jeune the examiners of private bills, amongst other measures, recently ordered the Bill to incorporate King Edward's Hospital Fund for London to be reported for first reading in the House of Lords. Referring to this Bill, which we print in full, the *British Medical Journal* says: "Its provisions will excite a good deal of criticism and not a little astonishment that men experienced in affairs should have advised the preparation of such a measure at the present day. The King, the founder and first President of the Fund, and the Prince of Wales, who is now President, have in many ways and on many occasions given convincing proofs not only of their interest in hospital work, but also of their sympathy with the aims and aspirations of the medical profession, and the Prince, in his speech at the annual meeting of the General Council of the Fund said that in sanctioning a proposal to seek an Act of Incorporation to place the administration of the Fund upon a strictly legal basis he was acting upon the advice of those most closely connected with the matter, and of a Committee appointed to confer with those responsible for the drafting of the Bill. It is permissible, therefore, frankly to point out some of the features of the Bill which appear to us to prove that the advice tendered to His Royal Highness has been exceedingly injudicious."

Our contemporary further says:—"This Committee has ignored absolutely the wishes, rights, and instructions of those by whose exertions or gifts the Fund has been built up, that is to say, of testators, donors, and subscribers, past, present, or future. It has ignored also the fact that the medical profession whose members staff the hospitals have an indisputable claim to share in the direction of these institutions and in the mode in which medical charity shall be administered. Finally, the Committee has committed the serious indiscretion of placing the President of the Fund, who is to be the nominee of the Sovereign, in the invidious position of being absolutely and unconditionally responsible for the whole working of the Fund. He, on his own sole authority, is to make, vary, and rescind by-laws, and he is to be the sole arbiter of how the moneys of the Fund shall be invested, and to what hospitals or hospital—for power is even taken to give all to one hospital—the whole, or any part, of the capital or income of the Fund shall be allotted. Private Bills sometimes, as every one knows, contain strange provisions, but we very much doubt when any precedent could be found for

provisions of this kind, and make bold to say that no Bill containing such provisions has obtained the sanction of Parliament for the last hundred years at any rate. Its provisions are contrary to the spirit of the constitution and to the spirit of the age."

A BILL

To Incorporate the President and Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; to provide for the Management of the Fund; and for other purposes.

Preamble.—WHEREAS His Majesty then Prince of Wales did in the year 1897 invite public subscriptions (annual and otherwise) to a Fund now known as "King Edward's Hospital Fund for London" (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") with the object of securing more efficient aid and support for Hospitals of London and of thus commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

AND WHEREAS the Fund was established and the same has been generously supported by public subscriptions and donations and by legacies and otherwise.

AND WHEREAS His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales is now President of the Fund.

AND WHEREAS His Royal Highness has from time to time appointed certain persons to act as an Advisory Council and as Committees and in various other capacities and has with the advice and assistance of such Council and Committees administered the Fund.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that for the proper establishment and administration of the Fund upon a permanent basis the President and Advisory Council should be incorporated and that provision should be made for the regulation and management of the Fund and with respect to present and future investments.

AND WHEREAS the purposes of this Act cannot be attained without the Authority of Parliament.

MAY IT THEREFORE PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

1. *Short Title.*—THIS Act may be cited as King Edward's Hospital Fund for London Act, 1907.

2. *Incorporation.*—FROM and after the passing of this Act His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales now President of the Fund and the present members of the said Advisory Council and the persons who hereafter shall be the President and the General Council respectively under this Act are hereby incorporated by the name of "King Edward's Hospital Fund for London" (in this Act referred to as "the Corporation") and by that name shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and with power without any further licence in mortmain to take purchase and hold lands and hereditaments and to sue and be sued and with all other rights powers and privileges of a body corporate.

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