

extended before the coming Summer. Donations should be sent to the Secretary, Mr. Edward A. Attwood, London Homœopathic Hospital, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C.

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital—the Lord Mayor presiding—it was reported that the Board of Management had refused the conditional legacy of Miss Rose Hyland, the condition being that within twelve months' time two lady members should be appointed to the Board of Management. Is it possible for sex intolerance to exhibit itself in a more discreditable light? Hardly.

On the 12th inst. the Home at Gringley-on-the-Hill, Notts., established by Captain Laycock, of Wiseton, Notts., for young convalescent patients, is to be reopened as a modern hospital, containing twenty beds, for tubercular patients, admirably equipped in every way for the important work for which it is now intended; and he will, in conjunction with the Duke of Portland, jointly defray the cost of its maintenance.

By those who have given the subject special consideration, the conviction has long been shared that the treatment of tubercular disease of the bones in children, particularly of the spine, hip, knee, and other joints, has been inadequately carried out in our hospitals, where it is not possible to accommodate the patient a sufficiently long period to effect a cure. Tubercular disease of the bone accounts for a large number of the cripples who excite sympathy in our streets every day, and yet most of the cases might have been completely cured by an early and thorough system of treatment.

The Cripples' Guild in Nottingham has been seriously considering the establishment of a hospital for the reception of cases of this character, but the difficulties of starting a new charity at present were almost insurmountable. The Duke of Portland and Captain J. F. Laycock have, however, come to their aid most opportunely.

The hospital will, in future, be controlled by a thoroughly efficient trained staff for the benefit of children from three to 12 years of age, suffering from infirmity after operation or illness attributed to tubercular mischief, but not pulmonary cases. In addition to any cases which the Duke of Portland and Captain Laycock may wish to place in the hospital, special provision has been made for the reception of patients from the General Hospital, the Children's Hospital, and the Cripples' Guild, all of Nottingham. A pony and carriage is available for driving the little patients round the district. As we report this week, Miss Burgess, from the General Hospital, Nottingham, has been appointed Matron, so that the hospital will be opened under the happiest auspices.

The eighth International Congress on Tuberculosis will meet in Rome in April, and is under the patronage of the King and Queen of Italy. Professor Buccelli is the President.

## A PITIFUL TALE.

"Bart's" is the oldest hospital in London, and until recently was held in sincere veneration by all who had ever worked in it. It would not be true to state that this is now the case. The nursing department has not recovered from the rude shock it sustained two years ago—and the "mind your own business" attitude towards its medical friends scattered over the country—will now no doubt be taken to heart. You can't insult a person one day—and beg of him the next.

Nevertheless, the statement made by the Treasurer will be realised with deep regret, that the hospital has an annual deficiency of £7,500, and is now in debt to the amount of £57,360. "If," said Lord Sandhurst at a meeting last week,— "and I can hardly believe it—we have lost the confidence of the public, and we do not manage to get sufficient money, there is no doubt whatever we shall have to curtail the work by closing a wing—200 beds."

Of course, such action is not to be thought of for a moment. If the public has lost confidence in the present management of the charity—the remedy is far less disastrous than closing beds to the poor—which for centuries have been at their disposal. *Let officers be appointed, who will re-inspire confidence.*

The present financial condition of affairs is stated in a report presented to the Governors from a special committee appointed last November, which points out:—

(a) An excess of expenditure over income on the working of the hospital—the annual deficiency for the five years (1906-10) averaging £7,500. The greater part of this deficiency is represented by the payment of interest and sinking fund (£5,072 per annum) in respect of the loan of £120,000 in connection with the purchase in the year 1902 of part of the site of Christ's Hospital for the necessary extension of the hospital.

(b) A debt of £49,500, the amount of the loan due to the Bank of England on December 31st, 1911, and a further loan of £7,860 from the Nurses' Home Fund (the italics are ours), together amounting to £57,360.

These latter loans have been incurred partly to meet the above deficiency, but mainly in connection with the erection of the out-patients' block and the pathological block.

The report ends with the hope that "immediately the financial position of the hospital warrants, no time will be lost in erecting a new nurses' home."

Considering that if there was a fire in the congeries of tenements occupied by the nurses it is probable that a holocaust of deaths would result, this pious expression of opinion is as callous as it is mischievous.

### APPEAL TO CÆSAR.

The King is President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. If he has a friend amongst the Governors let the truth, about this death trap, be reported to him without delay.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)