

pecuniary responsibility upon the public. They have not done so. They have failed in their duty, and by their omission incalculable and preventable suffering to the sick poor must have been caused. We earnestly trust that public attention will be so drawn to this grave fact that the authorities will be compelled to carry out efficiently the work with which they have been entrusted.

With regard to the Nursing Department, the little that was elicited conclusively proves how greatly behind the times St. Thomas's Hospital is, in its Nursing as well as in its financial arrangements. But this is a subject which deserves special consideration, which we will take an early opportunity of devoting to it.

THE NEW HOSPITAL IN MADAGASCAR.

THE Queen of Madagascar, Ranavalona III., lately opened the new Hospital at Antananarivo, built in connection with the Friends' Foreign Missionary Association and the London Missionary Society. The Queen went in state, under the royal red umbrella, to the building, where the key was presented to her on a red velvet cushion by the little son of one of the doctors. Saying in Malagasy, "This house is closed, but I open it for the reception of the sick in my dominions; may God bless what is done here, and grant health to the sick who are brought here," the Queen inserted the key and opened the Hospital. It is a comfortable-looking building of red brick, with arches and pillars of grey stone, built after that very favourite Colonial Hospital design—a central block and two wings, of which, however, only one is completed. The central is the administrative block, and contains rooms for the Doctors, Lady Superintendent, and Nurses, as well as two Wards for women and children, each holding eight beds. The wings, when finished, will each contain two Wards of sixteen beds. The Hospital is provided with convenient baths and store-rooms. This new building takes the place of an older one, in which the Medical Mission has carried on its work since 1864. The building of Hospitals on proper principles, where the sick can be properly nursed and attended, is always one of the most encouraging signs of civilisation. That Madagascar, in spite of her political distractions, is evidently able to appreciate the work of the Foreign Medical Missions is apparent by the interest which her amiable Queen has taken in the work. In her appreciation of matters concerning the medical welfare of her people, she clearly resembles our own Royal Family in England.

THE LEATHER LANE EVICTIONS.

THAT the weather the inhabitants of London, and most large towns have been favoured with, during the past week, has been so atrocious as to be without parallel, even in the memory of the proverbial "oldest

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inhabitant," nobody can deny. It is therefore not surprising that public opinion was more than a little scandalised when it was told in a morning paper, how the tenants evicted from certain dwellings in Leather Lane, Holborn, on December 22, had, women and children included, spent two nights camped out in the open without shelter. It is comforting to learn, on the authority of the Rector of St. Peter's, Saffron Hill, that this was an exaggeration, and that all women and children were housed and fed before night, but it was by private benevolence and not by law and authority. That the building from which these tenants were evicted was in an atrocious condition, bad drains, rotten ceilings, &c., and that their condemnation was most necessary, is undoubted. Still it seems a curious fact, that in one of the largest towns in Christendom—a town containing vast receptacles for poverty, built and maintained at an enormous expense by the citizens—it should be legally possible to turn a whole tribe of human beings into the street at the very coldest and most inclement season of the year, without any arrangement being made for their housing.

BEER IN WORKHOUSES AT CHRISTMAS TIME.

THE Guardians of the Islington Workhouse gave their inmates the option as to whether they would regale themselves on Christmas Day on such cheerful non-alcoholic drinks as lemonade, ginger-beer, milk, &c., or whether they would prefer the traditional pint of beer. An overwhelming majority voted for beer. All non-teetotallers are rejoiced that the question when put to the vote was answered by those most interested so unanimously in their favour; but the teetotallers point out—certainly with much reason—that this only proves conclusively how few abstainers sink to the workhouse!

UNCLE PUMBLEHOOK.

OUR clever contemporary, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, has just made a hit—a most palpable hit—by pointing out the striking resemblance which exists between Uncle Pumblehook and Mr. H. C. Burdett, who "always writes as if he had brought the Nurses up by hand, and was pained at their want of proper feeling." Mr. Burdett has recently taken it upon himself to appeal to the Press to arouse the public to renewed assistance to our Hospitals. He professes to be very shocked at the undeniable fact that confidence in our voluntary Institutions has been much shaken by various scandals which have occurred. With his customary lack of tact and temper, Mr. Burdett instituted invidious comparisons between the management of Hospitals supported by subscriptions and those maintained out of the rates, to the disparagement of the latter; and then, when his appeal elicited unfavourable comments in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, attempted to take that journal to task. We cannot but regard the castigation he has received as richly merited, and cordially approve of the sentiments enunciated by our contemporary on the Nursing question, extracts from which we give elsewhere.

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[next page](#)