

good enough to put into our hands, but I may say without fear of contradiction that there are no funds which it is so difficult to economise and administer, as those which do not exist; and our funds at present consist of a balance to the bad in our bankers' book. Why those long-suffering gentlemen, the bankers, allow us to go on is beyond my comprehension; but it apparently does not trouble them very much, and so we are going on, like many other charities with a balance on the wrong side. The question constantly presenting itself to us is—what are we to do under the circumstances, when as during the past year our subscribers diminish in number, and those occasional donations which help every Institution to tide over a bad time are being diverted into more sensational organisations? I think the only answer is, we must get more new subscribers; for there is a limit to the amount of water to be got out of old wells; and the only way to increase their number is in some way to get a larger number of people to interest themselves in procuring subscribers. What we have been trying to do for some time past is to obtain a large accession to the number of our Committee, I won't say of wealthy, but of influential gentlemen. If this could be brought about, the interest their names would excite and the interest which they themselves would take would soon enable us to increase our subscribers' list, and thus make up the deficit in our funds with perhaps a surplus over for general improvements. But while trying to increase the numbers of our Committee we have been anxious not to lose those who have helped us in times past. General Sir Henry de Bathe joined us as a representative of the Wandering Minstrels, who gave us a most successful concert, which assisted us a few years ago out of financial difficulties. Since then he has been as constant in his attendance as other occupations will allow, and more

than once has given us sound practical advice. As Viscount Cross remarked, we last year lost our most highly-esteemed and most munificent President, Mr. W. H. Smith, and we have tried, and not in vain, to persuade his son, who now represents the same constituency in Parliament, to come and join us, small though our Hospital is, both because of the interest his father took in it, and also because it is connected with a part of the town not far from his own. We felt sure he was a man who would support the charities which his father did before him, and he it is who, subject to your approval, is willing to join the Committee. Colonel Trotter, of the Guards, has also been persuaded, I believe by Captain Howard, to join our Committee; and that opens out, it appears to me, a splendid vista of wealthy subscribers, of whom we shall soon see the beginning and never, I hope, the end. Mr. Edwards Moss, who is very well-known in the Lower House, has also consented to join. We have not often before had to propose for election three new members for the Committee; so, if we can keep intact the interest of those who have helped us in the past, as well as enlarge the field of subscribers, we may confidently hope to see the funds increasing. Reference has been made, in the Report, I think, to that most remarkable man, General Booth and his schemes. I read in the papers to-day, that he is announcing to the public that his funds are exhausted. Now if the repletion of his funds means the depletion of the funds of the older charities, let us trust that when General Booth announces the exhaustion of his funds ours will rise in proportion. I am pleased to second the resolution. The Resolution was then carried unanimously.

Mr. BUTLER SMYTHE: I have great pleasure in moving that (under Rule 15) the following appointment be confirmed—namely, Dr. Rivers Pollock as Physician, in place of Dr. Steavenson, deceased. I might mention that since

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JOHN SCOTT, Hon. Secretary.

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