

last fortified camp of the Britons, from which "they marched to give battle to their Roman masters"; and here, if wished, our able escort will allow you to dismount and take a nearer inspection. Arriving at Epping a short rest is allowed, while the horses were being refreshed, after which we took our seats and returned by Coopersale, through the trees catching glimpses of a very pretty old church, near which is situated what was once the residence of the great actor, Samuel Phelps. On, on we came, the view on all sides entrancing us as we gaze around; now the country, stretching for miles before us, is resplendent in all its summer glory, while the over-hanging boughs by the way-side are but the forerunners of the thicket that lays beyond, through which the deer are quizzically peeping, only to be startled by the guard blowing his horn, when helter skelter away they go. Further on, on the left, is erected a monument in memory of a famous charger, who took part in the battle of Waterloo, while on the right, a little lower down, the grave of Dick Turpin is marked by a small cross. From this point you can see Waltham Abbey in the distance, and right at the top of High Beech stands the tree which Her Majesty the Queen planted when she proclaimed the Forest open to the people, and which our coachman facetiously remarked "has grown very little since." Nor was the pleasure of the day at an end on the return from our coaching expedition, for there were still the rooms to see of the Royal Forest Hotel, decorated after the styles of the different countries, which in themselves are interesting enough, and last, but not least, is Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, still kept in good preservation, while the famous staircase, which she mounted while on horseback, has lost none of its old interest to those of historic and antiquarian tastes. Since the house was bought by the Corporation of London, they have had one room of tapestry preserved as it stood in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and hope before long to form quite a museum of curios belonging to that period. There are two drives daily, varying in their routes, the particulars of which can be had on application to the Secretary, Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford.

Central Board for Metropolitan Hospitals.

PROPOSED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

VARIOUS proposals for a central board are set out on pages 44 to 47 of the report. The Committee do not incline absolutely to any one of these proposals. They are of opinion that, as there is no Government grant,

the interference of a Government officer for inspection would be unwise, and they think such interference would tend to check the flow of voluntary contributions, and to some extent to interfere with the responsibility of unpaid boards of managers.

The Committee do not think that such a central board should be given any statutory powers as regards the formal licensing of any hospital built, or about to be built. They would recommend that the proposed central board should be granted a charter to entitle it to receive endowments, legacies, bequests, and contributions for distribution to medical charities, and to meet its own necessary expenses. The board may be organised in the following way:—

The various hospitals and dispensaries of all kinds should be grouped. The smaller hospitals should be grouped according to the classes of disease which they treat. Each general hospital, with or without a school, might be considered to be equivalent to a group. Each group would send one or more delegates to be members of the central board. The heads of the great medical corporations—*e.g.*, the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, the Medical Council, and the Society of Apothecaries—might become members of this central board. The free and part-pay dispensaries might send one member, and the provident dispensaries also one member. The Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds might each send one member.

The duties of this board might be of the following nature:—

(1.) It should receive annual reports, statements of accounts, and balance sheets from all hospitals and dispensaries, together with a return of the total number of in-patients, out-patients, and casualty patients.

(2.) It should require that all accounts be audited by competent chartered accountants.

(3.) It should arrange that all medical charities should be visited and reported on periodically.

(4.) It should report from time to time, as occasion required, all proposals for new hospitals.

(5.) It should publish an annual report, the principal heads of which might be as follows:—

(A) A complete statement as to the pecuniary position of each medical charity.

(B) A statement by a competent authority as to the existing sanitary condition and ventilation of each hospital, and as to arrangements concerted with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

(C) An account of the number of beds in use, the number of beds unoccupied, and the reasons why they are unoccupied. The average daily number of occupied beds, details as to beds for which payment is made, and the number of resident medical staff, resident officers, nurses, and servants.

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