

Group of Hospitals, &c.	Number of beds.	Number of representatives.	Total representatives of groups.
Provident dispensaries	—	1	—
General Medical Council	—	1	20
Royal College of Physicians...	—	1	—
Royal College of Surgeons ...	—	1	—
Society of Apothecaries	—	1	—
General practitioners ...	—	1	—
University for London	—	1	—
			6
London County Council	—	—	1
Sunday Fund ...	—	—	1
Saturday Fund...	—	—	1
		Total ...	49

There can be little doubt that in times of pecuniary difficulties of any individual hospital or group of hospitals, appeals to the public would have greater weight were they supported by a body of responsible men who were conversant with the merits and the means of all the medical charities in London.

The expenses of this board might be defrayed by levying a small percentage on the income of each group of hospitals sending a delegate to the board.

In sketching the foregoing outline of a central body, the committee are desirous of expressing

their opinion that some more satisfactory organisation of medical charity is most desirable. It should always be borne in mind that the establishment of Poor Law infirmaries and rate-supported asylums, under the Metropolitan Poor Law Act, 1867, has in great measure altered the relations between the poor and the hospitals and everything associated with medical charity; and the committee cannot shut their eyes to the possibility that if some such organisation as they have recommended is not adopted, a time may come when it will be necessary for hospitals to have recourse either to Government aid or municipal subvention.

It is shown by the evidence that, apart from the three endowed hospitals, the general hospitals in London are maintained principally by the legacies they receive and large donations from unexpected quarters. In most cases the subscriptions from annual subscribers do not suffice to pay the wages of the servants and nurses employed in the service of each hospital, to say nothing of the cost of maintenance and administration. It has been authoritatively stated that from £50,000 to £55,000 per annum are required to render available the 1,800 or 2,000 vacant beds which are said to exist.

One endowed hospital is maintained entirely by its endowments, but the two others are so short of funds that many beds are closed to the sick poor.

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