

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL.

LORD BALFOUR, who presided at the annual meeting of the London Fever Hospital, stated that the year's work had been satisfactory; 781 patients had been admitted, which, with 71 in the hospital at the end of the previous year, made a total of 852 patients—250 more than the average of the last twenty years. By the completion of the work of rebuilding, the hospital was now able fully to meet the demands made upon it. The number of patients treated in virtue of the subscriptions of governors and managers of business houses was 316, the number that had paid the ordinary fee of 3 guineas was 476, and 51 had paid 5 guineas a week in private rooms. In 38 cases the fees were remitted, the patients having shown their inability to meet the charge; but of those who were charged 3 guineas 72 had supplemented the fee by sums varying from 1 guinea to 25 guineas, amounting in all to £227. The Committee had expended £60,000 in reconstructing the hospital on modern lines. The adoption of the report, which was read by Dr. Sydney Phillips, Senior Physician, was moved by Sir Shirley Murphy, and carried unanimously.

ROYAL HALIFAX INFIRMARY.

The report presented to the annual meeting of the governors of this infirmary, held in Halifax on January 30th, stated that the total number of persons treated during the year was 9,899, against 9,423 in the previous year. The number of in-patients was 1,822, an increase of 78; and the average cost of in-patients £3 18s. 8d., compared with £3 17s. 7d. in 1906. The average cost per occupied bed per annum was £62 15s. 5d., against £58 17s. 9d. in the previous year. The Board brought to the notice of the subscribers the increased cost of administering the infirmary, owing to the advance in the price of nearly all provisions and stores.

The subcommittee appointed to consider the details of construction of a proposed isolation ward reported that an institution like the Royal Halifax Infirmary, dependent on voluntary subscriptions, ought not to burden itself with the responsibility of treating infectious cases, the municipal authorities being bound to provide for them; there was ample accommodation in the small side wards for the few cases which might occur requiring isolation. It was reported also that the opinion of the subcommittee was unanimously endorsed by the honorary medical staff of the institution. Under these circumstances the Board had determined to abandon the project.

BRADFORD CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

At the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Governors and subscribers of this hospital, held on January 31st in the Council Chamber of the Bradford Town Hall, the Lord Mayor presiding, it was reported that the number of in-patients under treatment during the year had been 557, an increase of 20 over the previous year. In the out-patient department there had been a decrease of 569 new cases, but the casualties were practically the same. The attendances on out-patients had been 12,964, compared with 16,432, a decrease accounted for by better health amongst children, better conditions of trade and a stricter method of registration of attendances. The financial position of the hospital had much improved during the year, although the income did not yet exceed or equal the expenditure. The total income amounted to £2,785, an increase of £261. The expenditure was less by £339. The average cost per occupied bed per annum had been £81 17s., a substantial decrease from last year. For the purpose of bringing the operating theatre and the sterilizing and anaesthetic rooms up to date, extensive alterations had been carried out and new appliances introduced, the greater part of the new appliances having been given by friends of the hospital.

Some discussion took place in connexion with two deaths that had occurred in children removed from the hospital on account of infectious disease. It was suggested by one of the members of the honorary medical staff that a joint isolation ward might be built by the city authorities to which all cases of infectious disease might be sent direct from the different hospitals. Another speaker, however, strongly urged that a joint isolation block would be much better if provided by private subscription.

LIVERPOOL INFIRMARY FOR CHILDREN.

At the annual meeting of the Infirmary for Children it was announced that the west wing and also the nurses' home were nearing completion and would be ready for occupation in the spring, but about £2,000 was still required for furniture and fittings. The Lord Mayor, in responding to a vote of thanks, took occasion to emphasize the importance of the infirmary as an educational as well as a curative agency in respect of the instruction it afforded to the children and their mothers in the matter of cleanliness, order, and sanitation. The improved equipments and appliances of modern hospitals had made the work of such institutions immensely more effective than it was, say, twenty years ago. The appliances which enabled this saving of life to be effected were much more expensive, but the saving of life was so great that it was very well worth the while of the public to find the extra money required.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES and LETTERS forwarded for publication are understood to be offered to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL alone unless the contrary be stated.

CORRESPONDENTS who wish notice to be taken of their communications should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look at the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

MANUSCRIPTS FORWARDED TO THE OFFICE OF THIS JOURNAL CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE RETURNED.

In order to avoid delay, it is particularly requested that ALL letters on the editorial business of the JOURNAL be addressed to the Editor at the Office of the JOURNAL, and not at his private house.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.; those concerning business matters, advertisements, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the Manager, at the Office, 6, Catherine Street, Strand, London, W.C.

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Queries, answers, and communications relating to subjects to which special departments of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL are devoted will be found under their respective headings.

QUERIES.

WE would request correspondents who desire to ask questions in this column not to make use of such signatures as "A Member," "A Member B.M.A.," "Enquirer," and so on. By attention to this request much confusion would be avoided. Correspondents are asked to write upon one side of the paper only.

J. A. ASKS for information as to the efficiency of Droitwich baths in cases of rheumatic arthritis in which there is no history of rheumatic fever.

METROPOLE desires to know of a climate which would be suitable for an English medical man, aged 40, who suffers from muscular rheumatism. It is essential that it be in an English-speaking country, where he could practise his profession, as he has a family depending on him and only small private means. He imagines a dry, somewhat warm climate would suit best. Would Australia, or South Africa, or Southern California—for example, Los Angeles—be suitable, and what are the conditions and prospects of practice for an English medical man in these places?

ANSWERS.

THE USE OF THE SETON.

DR. W. J. RUTHERFURD (Nelson, Lancs) asks whether, in cases of profound lesions of the central nervous system, the production of a bedsore might not be as efficacious as the introduction of a seton. It seems possible that even the production of superficial ulceration by a carelessly exhibited hot-water bottle might exert a similar beneficial effect.

NASAL PUSTULES.

MR. J. WISHART KERR, M.B. (Glasgow), writes, in reply to "R. N.": His patient should thoroughly cleanse the inside of his nose at night, and then apply to it the following ointment: Ung. hydrarg. ammon., liq. carb. deterg., aa ʒij; ung. zinci oxidī ʒj. With no smoking of cigars or cigarettes during treatment, three days will suffice for a cure.

MEDICAL INSPECTORS.

QUERULOUS would like to know if a county medical officer, acting on behalf of a county educational authority, is legally entitled to write to a few individuals inviting their application for two appointments as medical school inspectors under him. He understands that eight gentlemen were written to, and interviewed by the county medical officer of health, and applications and testimonials were addressed to him. These appointments were worth £300 per annum, and "Querulous" is of opinion that they should have been thrown open to the profession at large by means of advertisement in the medical journals.

** Neither the enacting clause in the Act of last year nor the memoranda of the Board of Education contain any direction requiring advertisement of such appointments.