

DIFFICULT CASES.

[Inquiries and Cases are always welcome for this Column.]

HOPELESS, OFFENSIVE, AND INCURABLE.

I AM glad to see from time to time some of the many sad cases of incurable suffering that exist, brought to light in the pages of THE HOSPITAL under the head of "Difficult Cases." I am afraid the old proverb, "out of sight out of mind," has partly been the cause why homes for these poor unseen sufferers have, until lately, taken but a small share among the many institutions existing in our country. I am glad now to hear frequently of fresh Homes for Incurables springing up in various parts of England, yet many more are needed, particularly some for the very bad cases of incurable illness, or, in plain English, the cases that are unpleasant, and very trying to nurse. In a very small way an attempt has been made to meet this want in Reading. The Nursing Home, Brownlow Road, was opened in December 1878. Since then, thirty sufferers have been committed to our care. Of these, twelve have died in the Home, eight are now with us, and ten have left. Of those who died, six were cases of cancer, one of lupus. Of those now with us, four are so utterly helpless that they cannot be moved without the help of two, sometimes three people; and another is a sad case of internal ulceration. It will not surprise those who know something of illness to hear that these very helpless, and often dying inmates, are more expensive to nurse than those suffering from acute illness. Often they cannot even turn in bed, or feed themselves, without help, so that much time has to be given them, and a larger staff of attendants is required than for those who can in any way assist themselves. When vacancies occur we generally select the most urgent case on our list.

Hitherto, two of the three small houses used for the Home have been lent to us. It is uncertain how long we can reckon on this help; we want, therefore, to raise £3,000 to purchase the whole property, and place the Institution on a more permanent footing. Towards this we have at present only £300. The two houses lent have been thrown into one, and fitted with conveniences for nursing; but the third house cannot be so well adapted unless the property is purchased, and the owner is willing to sell when the purchase-fund is complete. We have many kind friends in Reading who have helped us to carry on our work for eight years, but as our patients come from all parts of England, we hope to receive contributions to our purchase-fund from all parts also. I shall be glad to send a little sketch I last year drew up of the work done in the Home to any who would like to know more about us. Canon Garry is our vicar and chaplain, and O. C. Maurice, Esq., is our hon. medical attendant. The hon. treasurer, D. M. Gardner Esq., Lindeth, Bath Road, Reading, will thankfully receive any donations, or they can be paid to the bankers, Stephens, Blandy and Co., Market Place.

EMILIA VINCENT,
Lady in Charge.

Nursing Home, Reading.

WORTHY OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.

C. J. F. writes:—"There is a girl (the younger sister of a servant of mine) in whom I am somewhat interested. Her parents are very poor, but respectable, hardworking people; the girl in question suffers very much from her sight; sometimes it is so bad that she can hardly see her way about. She also suffers from ulcers: one now upon her leg is several inches long. She is a very good girl, and it is exceedingly sad to see her so afflicted. She is but nine years

old, and if she could obtain good food and careful treatment in a hospital for a time, I daresay she could be made quite another child. It occurred to me that perhaps you might be so kind as to use your influence, or to offer me any suggestion on behalf of this poor child. Her friends, who find existence an exceedingly hard struggle, would be deeply grateful. They have a young family of nine."

THE QUILTER PRIZES.

HOSPITAL HOUSEKEEPING AND MANAGEMENT.

WE offer two prizes of Ten Guineas and Five Guineas respectively for the two best reports on the Expenditure of any single hospital, such reports to give all the details concerning the cost of food and stimulants, brought out in detail in the table on page ii of the Special Supplement we published last week, together with a critical examination of the various recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee of the Newcastle Infirmary, and the addition of the figures to the following heads of expenditure. Hospital secretaries may procure a printed form of return, containing all the particulars to be filled up by competitors, on application to the Editor.

1. *Domestic Expenses.*—Soap and Soda; Laundry, Repairs, and Washing; Water Rate; Coals, Coke, and Wood; Gas and Oil; Bedding and Linen; Furniture, Earthenware, and Hardware; Uniform and Livery, for (a) Porters, (b) Sisters and Nurses.

2. *Surgery and Dispensary.*—Drugs; Surgical Dressings and Bandages; Instruments, Artificial Limbs, and Trusses; Mineral Waters; Dispensary Sundries.

3. *Salaries and Wages.*—(a) Management, including Secretary Superintendent, Clerks, and Collectors (including commission); (b) Nursing Department, Matron or Lady Superintendent, Superintendents of Nursing, Sisters, Nurses, Extra Nurses, Ward Maids and Scourers; (c) Maintenance of Porters and Servants (not included in a and b).

4. *Management Expenses.*—Printing and Stationery; Advertisements; Postage; Special Appeal for Funds; Annual Court and Festival Dinner; Auditor's Fee; Banker's Interest.

5. *Rates and Insurance* (exclusive of Water and Gas rates).

6. *Pensions*, showing to which Department they belong.

7. *Repairs and alterations of Structure.*—(a) General, including flooring and painting; (b) Extraordinary, including building.

8. *Miscellaneous Expenses* (i.e., all other items to be given in detail).

All the figures are to be those for the year 1886, and the totals must agree with the figures published in the annual report, and copy of which must be sent in with the manuscript. Competitors must enclose their name and address, must write on one side of the paper only, and give the name of the hospital they have selected. No competition should occupy more space than that represented by three pages of printed matter in THE HOSPITAL.

All competitions must be sent in not later than the 31st of March next, addressed to the Editor, THE HOSPITAL, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, London, W.C., and it is hoped that particulars may in this way be supplied from every British Hospital.