

opinion, formed by experience, that sustentation funds are a mistake. They have a tendency to make a hospital unpopular because of the strained efforts which are required, periodically, to keep them going. There is no real attraction, in a financial sense, in announcing that a fund of say, £50,000 or £100,000 has been raised by five years' sustentation funds. Rather does the hospital suffer, by creating a belief that it is in funds, whereas it has in fact only organised limited contributions of £10,000 to £20,000 a year from certain donors. Good hospital finance merely entails an organisa-

tion of a variety of means, which, collectively, will yield during the year about the sum required to meet the current expenditure. Any voluntary hospital, in the present day, which restricts its relief to deserving cases, and has a capable administrator for its secretary, should be able to get ample funds and to extend its popularity with the public every year. Sustentation funds may produce opposite results. We should therefore, advise the Mayor of Bradford to consider the question, in these varying aspects, before committing the town to another sustentation fund.

KING EDWARD'S HOSPITAL FUND FOR LONDON.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the General Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, to receive the Accounts and the Report of the General Council for the year 1906, was held at Marlborough House on March 15, the Prince of Wales (President of the Fund) in the chair.

Lord Rothschild (the Hon. Treasurer) presented the accounts.

The Prince of Wales moved the adoption of the Accounts, which was seconded by Sir Henry Burdett and supported by Sir Joseph Dimsdale, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Danvers Power read the Draft Report of the Council for the year 1906.

The Prince of Wales, in moving the adoption of the Report, said:—As at our last meeting in December I went fully into the various questions affecting the Fund, I do not propose to do more to-day than to formally move the adoption of the Report. I consider the meeting of the Council to pass the distribution of our funds to be the most important one of the year, and I therefore intend for the future to keep any remarks I may have to make for that occasion. But I should like to take

this opportunity of thanking Sir John Craggs, who was one of our Honorary Secretaries from the foundation of the Fund until last June, for his invaluable services which have been of the greatest assistance to the Fund, and have involved the expenditure of an enormous amount of time and trouble on his part. We cannot be too grateful to him for what he has done for us, and we are all, I am sure, very glad to know that we shall still have the benefit of his advice as a member of the Council and Committees on which he serves. I now move the adoption of the Report.

The resolution was seconded by Sir William Collins, supported by Mr. Henry Morris (President of the Royal College of Surgeons) and Sir John Craggs, and carried unanimously.

The progress of the Bill for incorporating the Fund was reported.

The Lord Mayor (Sir W. P. Treloar) moved, and the Chairman of the County Council (Mr. H. Percy Harris) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Prince of Wales for presiding, which His Royal Highness briefly acknowledged.

The proceedings then terminated.

AFTER THE FAIR.

A CENTRAL HOSPITAL BOARD ADVOCATED.

DR. W. KNOWSLEY SIBLEY read a paper advocating the formation of a Central Hospital Board for London before the meeting of the Westminster Division of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, which was held on Wednesday, March 13, at St. James's Vestry Hall, Piccadilly. He commenced by taking a rapid glance at a few of the more prominent points in the present "uncontrolled" hospital system, including the question of competition between hospitals for funds, students, and patients; the crowding of hospitals into the wealthier districts where they were not wanted and their absence from the poorer parts where they were sadly required, and the misuse of hospitals. Neither the interests of the public nor those of the medical profession were safeguarded under the present system. Many of the subscriptions received by hospitals were paid by business houses as a form of insurance, in order to provide for the unlimited free treatment of their employees in case of accident or illness. In like manner some private individuals gave their few guineas a year to the nearest hospital. He advocated the amalgamation of King Edward's Hospital Fund and the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds into one central body, holding that if these bodies were to amalgamate there would be a large saving in expense and a much greater power to control and supervise hospital expenditure. A strong central body could at once stop the abuse and misuse

into which the hospitals had allowed themselves to drift, restore them to the place they should hold in the social organisation, and rescue them from their lamentable present position of pauperising agents. The public and the profession were tired of the everlasting special appeals for funds, and the hospitals must now be rescued from the hands of competing groups of irresponsible individuals, and from the narrow cliques of many of the medical lay committees, and placed under the proper control of a central and responsible authority. The first business of a Central Metropolitan Board should be to draw up a Hospitals and Charities Acts on somewhat parallel lines to the Public Companies Acts, which should define the legal position of members of charity committees and the responsibilities of all those holding fiduciary positions. The subscribing public had a right to know that the money given by it was not, through negligence and stupidity, wantonly squandered in a way that the law would not permit to be followed by any but a charitable institution. (Applause.) The following motion was moved and carried unanimously: "That in view of the mismanagement and abuse of hospitals, the Westminster Division considers the welfare of the public and the interests of the medical profession would be best obtained by the establishment of a Central Hospital Board for London." It was decided to call a special meeting at an early date to consider the resolution.