

internal arrangement as well as the general management of them, differ in many respects from those of similar institutions in Britain and America—those remarks may possess some interest.

While in Britain, Canada, and elsewhere, PRIVATE CHARITY erects, and private charity supports those institutions which have for their object the alleviation of diseased humanity—L'a-sistance publique forms a huge and important item in French Government. There are numerous exceptions, however, and costly edifices are here and there seen to rear their heads, beneath which are collected numerous living monuments to individual philanthropy. These institutions flourish with the founders; and, as a general rule, the latter, dying, bequeath them as a rich legacy unto their country. All French Hospitals, as well at Paris as in the Provinces, are under the direction of, are guided by, and receive assistance from, the *administration generale*. This is one of the wealthiest and most perfectly organized corporations in France. With an annual income of upwards of half a million, it is placed *hors de besoin*, and prepared for any emergency. This immense income enables it to support not only general hospitals, but also special ones for almost every disease and age. Thus it has been seen that the infant may draw the first breath of life in a hospital—reach extreme old age, and terminate his existence there; and during the whole course of his chequered and diseased life, public solicitude watches over him, and ministers to his every comfort. The *administration générale* is composed of a Director General, (a government appointment) a council of inspection, composed of 20 members, of which only 4 are physicians, a general secretary, two inspectors, and a treasurer. Each one of the above is charged, in addition to his common duties, with the inspection of certain institutions. The ostensible head of a hospital, in virtue of his appointment is a non-professional, or at least a non-medical; the *actual* director, in virtue of his duties, is a professional. Where a perfect understanding and friendly relations exist between the legal and should be director, I mean, when the physician assumes all responsibility, and acts independently of, though apparently in concert with, the director, the latter, all the time unconscious but that he is the moving power, every thing goes on smoothly; but when a director is too keenly alive to the importance of his office, is jealous of his prerogative, and seeks for opportunities of exercising it, such as refusing wine or extras to patients when ordered, or denying admission to those who require immediate care, it is then the greatest confusion arises, and the injurious effects of misplaced power are most apparent. This has been commented upon at great length by the *Presse* of Paris, and there is no doubt but the evil will soon be remedied.

It is not left to the discretion of an individual to seek admission into