

THE LANCET

LATE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

The determination of the governors of the General Hospital to afford free nursing in the city to those who are unable to pay for the services of a skilled nurse, is to be warmly commended. It would appear that the necessary addition to the hospital will shortly be built; it is absolutely required to relieve the congested condition of the building, which is now taxed beyond its capabilities. Very serious complaints are made by members of the medical staff of the admission into the free beds for treatment, and operation, of persons well able to pay for medical attendance. This is an abuse of the charity, and every possible precaution should be taken to exclude such cases, except from the private wards. It is an injustice to the medical staff to be called upon to treat cases in the public beds of the hospital, the occupants of which are, as we have lately in several instances been informed, well known by the attending physicians to be pecuniarily in a better position than they were. This is an abuse of charity, we are sorry to add, of too frequent occurrence. But though the matter is surrounded with difficulty, some means should be adopted to minimize it.

ETHICS.

It was our painful duty to call attention to a grave breach of medical ethics on the part of a gentleman, who, from his professional standing, one would suppose could not be guilty of it. The facts were brought under the notice of Dr. Gray, the

Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, who notified this gentleman that if he practised in Manitoba action would be at once taken against him, with the result that he left town the same evening, perhaps not a sadder, but certainly a wiser, man. It not infrequently becomes an unpleasant necessity for a medical journalist to take notice of these acts. But, in the interests of the profession, locally and generally, he is compelled to do so, with no animosity to the offender, whom he has probably never seen, or heard of before, as was the case in this instance.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES.

A meeting of the city physicians was held at the city hall on the evening of May 26th to consider the above scheme, so far as Manitoba and the Northwest is concerned. With one dissentient the meeting was unanimous in coming to the conclusion that the apparent object of the scheme was in the highest degree praiseworthy, but that with the present sparse population of Western Canada, the long distances to be travelled in the winter months, that it would be entirely impracticable for a female to carry out the duties she might conscientiously undertake. That the first step should be to settle medical men in these outlying districts, then the nurse scheme would be in order. If the government of the country induces a number of people of different nationalities to settle on the far distant prairies, remote from centres of civilization, it certainly is their bounden duty to place medical relief within their reach, and such relief should not be confined to that of a nursing character. The working of the scheme in cities in England is brought forward as a contention for it here, but there is no parallel. The population of London is greater than that of the whole Dominion; it is easy to conceive the misery and poverty that the dens