

THEY WANT A HOSPITAL.

SEVERAL OF MONCTON'S CITIZENS HAVE THE FEELING BADLY.

They will take as Small Subscriptions as Twenty-five Dollars From any Citizen who is Generally Disposed—Some of the Things to be Considered in the Scheme.

The people in Moncton who want a hospital evidently want it very much indeed, if one may judge by the energetic manner in which they are working for their pet scheme. Opposition is said to be the life of trade, and apparently it puts life in other things also, and give a wholesome fillip to enterprises that might otherwise die of inanition. The hospital is not by any means a new idea, it has been proposed several times before, but on each occasion died a natural death, and the cause, as given in the burial certificate, was lack of interest. A few people were so genuinely in earnest, and so enthusiastic over the crying need of a hospital in the city, that they were willing to devote whatever of time and money they had at their disposal, to the good cause; but unfortunately, there were either "not enough" to form a quorum or else the people who were rich in enthusiasm were too poor in coin of the realm to be able to give their opinion that substantial backing without which a cold and calculating world is apt to receive even the most philanthropic of schemes, with discouraging indifference. Besides that there was no one else in the field with a rival attraction just then, and therefore little reason for any undue excitement over the matter. Now however all this is changed, and as a certain number of the citizens are convinced that there is a much greater need of public squares, and also that they are by far the most practicable and least expensive of the proposed jubilee memorials; the hospital party have arisen and girded themselves for action, and even those who are not in sympathy with their views cannot help admiring the energy and earnestness with which they have set about their task.

A meeting was held in the Y. M. C. A. parlors last Thursday evening for the purpose of thoroughly discussing the feasibility of the scheme, and all those interested were invited to attend. Judging by the number who responded to the invitation there were a goodly number interested, for the rooms were tolerably well filled. Mr. Peter McInerney was called to the chair, and after various propositions had been submitted to the meeting the suggestion of Mr. Joshua Peters was finally adopted. Mr. Peters suggested that the citizens purchase a suitable site, erect and equip a cottage hospital which shall not cost more than seven thousand dollars, and present it to the city provided the city council will vote a certain sum per annum towards its maintenance. On the chairman agreeing to this proposition it was decided to appoint a committee to draw up a guarantee to this effect, and Messrs. Joshua Peters, Dr. McCully and H. C. Hanington were chosen.

Each one present then pledged themselves to spend at least one hour in obtaining other signatures, and the meeting dispersed after magnanimously deciding not to confine the privilege of subscribing to those who could give thousands, and hundreds of dollars, but to accept contributions of such small sums as twenty-five dollars, or even less. This was a step in the right direction as doubtless the committee who will be appointed later to receive subscriptions will be overwhelmed with entreaties from all classes, to be allowed to contribute to the fund even the small sum of twenty-five dollars. The agreement finally drawn up reads as follows: "We, the undersigned, hereby constitute ourselves a general committee for the purpose of commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by the erection and equipment of a public hospital for the city of Moncton, according to plans and specifications to be approved by the city council, and not to exceed in cost the sum of seven thousand dollars, provided that the city as its part in the celebration of the same event, contribute the sum of one thousand dollars per year for the maintenance of such hospital."

Here follows the signatures, but the peculiarity of the document is one which will strike the business man at once and cause him to wonder whether it could possibly have been intentional—it consists of the utter absence of financial obligation of any kind, and therefore if the promoters should succeed in securing a thousand names they would still be unable to form the slightest estimate of the amount they could count upon. The documents is merely a list of those who are in favor of a hospital rather than public squares, as a jubilee memorial. So thoroughly are the ladies who favor the hospital in earnest that a number of them are engaged in making a house to house canvass in order to find out the true state of public opinion on

the subject. Should the result be satisfactory it will be placed before the citizens at the next meeting and the hospital will probably become an accomplished fact.

So far so well! It would doubtless be a moment of triumph for those who have worked so valiantly, when Moncton Cottage hospital is completed, and handed over to the city, but at the same time the city's troubles will have only just begun. The municipality is by no means a wealthy one, so far it has not felt itself in a position to expend the money required to complete the paving of Main street, and the sidewalks on many of the side streets are in a most deplorable condition, therefore the logical inference is, that the funds at the disposal of the city council are inadequate to permit of a sufficient appropriation to keep the streets in proper order; and if so, how is it possible that the large sum of a thousand dollar a year can be forthcoming towards the support of a hospital? It can only be done by increased taxation, and the Moncton taxpayer is justly of the opinion that he pays just as high a price now, for the privilege of residing in the railway city, as he can afford.

It is not as if the one thousand dollars would be sufficient to support the hospital, it will be scarcely one third of what will be required—about enough to pay the salary of a thoroughly competent superintendent—and how the other two thousand is to be raised does not appear at the present time, and is scarcely likely to appear with any great clearness in the future.

The way the matter works is this—first the citizen is invited to contribute towards the seven thousand dollars required for the first cost of the institution, and if he is a poor man, as most of the citizens are, he will be inclined to feel that after he has contributed even the small sum of twenty-five dollars, he has done all he can afford to. When he finds his taxes increased in order to enable the city to pay the thousand dollars pledged towards the yearly support of the hospital he will feel that he has done more than he could afford; and when he is blandly called upon once more to help out the other two thousand required to maintain the jubilee commemoration in comfort, he will be inclined vulgarly speaking—to kick, and also to wish that model cottage hospital at the bottom of the sea. "Oh! says some enthusiastic friend of the hospital scheme—"You don't know anything about it, why we are going to do as they do in the American cities, we intend having a thorough training school in connection with the hospital, and keeping a constant supply of trained nurses always on hand. The trained nurse in her second year is considered just as good as a graduate, and these nurses shall hire out at ten and twelve dollars a week, the money to go, of course, as is customary to the hospital. In this way we shall have a constant source of income, apart from our earnings by private patients and what we expect from private subscriptions." Very good indeed, but then a training school is going to add considerably to the expense of the hospital! Even in Canada no hospital offers its probationers less than six dollars per month, and in Montreal and Ottawa, I believe eight is the usual sum, less being considered inadequate for the ordinary expenses which even the most economical girl must incur during her student years. That of course is an item of expenditure to be considered, and as for the ten and twelve per week to be earned by the students, the prices paid for such services will have to increase largely before any such sum will be paid as the regular price for a trained nurse is now six dollars per week, and excellent nurses without diplomas can be got for five. Therefore it is scarcely likely that people in moderate circumstances will feel inclined to pay double prices for nurses just to help the hospital along.

Again, a training school requires a full staff of competent nurses, in order to be "thorough," as well as a constant succession of patients since it is impossible to furnish the necessary training in medicine, surgery, obstetrics and contagious diseases without object lessons and practice; and it is greatly to be feared that if more than half a dozen patients per year are required for the successful conduct of a hospital in Moncton, they will have to be imported for the purpose and carefully preserved as subjects.

It is all very well to accuse those who do not honestly believe that Moncton is able to support an hospital, of looking on the dark side, but it is well to look at both sides all the same, and to think seriously before taking a decisive step that cannot very well be retraced. A hospital is a good thing though a very expensive one,

but there are many things Moncton needs more at the present time, such as better postal accommodation, better sidewalks, a general delivery of letters and—more than all some place where all classes can go for a breath of air and an hour's rest during the hot summer months.

GEORGE CUTHBERT STRANGE.

A ROMAN PICNIC.

How the Great Artist Showed he had a Very Kind Heart.

On the sad occasion of the death of Lord Leighton an august personage wrote of him, and justly, "There was something even greater than his work, and that was the man himself." A pretty incident of the great painter's early life is told by Giovanni Costa in Cornhill Magazine.

In the month of May it was the custom formerly for all the artists in Rome to indulge in a picnic at Cervara, a farm in the Roman campagna. There used to be donkey-races, and the winner of them was always the hero of the day.

On one of these picnics we had halted at a small town three miles out of Rome for breakfast. Everyone had dismounted and tied his beast to a paling, and all were eating merrily. Suddenly one of the donkeys kicked over a beehive, and out flew the bees to revenge themselves on the donkeys.

There were about one hundred of the poor beasts, but they all unloosed themselves and took to flight, kicking up their heels in the air—all but one little donkey, who was unable to free himself, and so the whole swarm fell upon him.

The picnic party also broke up and fled, with the exception of one young man with fair, curly hair, dressed in velvet, who, slipping on gloves and tying a handkerchief over his face, ran to liberate the poor little beast. I had started to do the same, but less resolutely, having no gloves. So I met him as he came back, and congratulating him, asked him his name.

His name was Frederic Leighton.

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