

Editorials.

Medical Charity.

No excuse is necessary for bringing forward a subject which is to-day occupying the attention of advanced minds in the medical profession, and amongst charitable people throughout the civilized world. The compact aggregations of the masses, and the hard struggle for life and position make the battle with disease harder to-day. (notwithstanding our improved scientific ways) both for the afflicted ones and for those who endeavor to alleviate their sufferings. In a young country such as this, where nature is so generous, we are touched but lightly by the troubles which in older and more thickly peopled places bear heavily upon those who are brought into this circle. Though evils exist here, and are making steady progress in the way of pauperizing our people, do not think that we advocate any abatement of charity: such is not the aim; but rather so to attract the attention of the medical and charitable public that the subject of "medical charity" may secure the widest discussion and such regulation as will do away with abuses and increase the benefit to all concerned in such laudable objects.

In order to enhance the value of our statements (from the *British Medical Journal*, March 20th, 1897, "Hospital Reform"), we make a small quotation from a memorial from the Hospital Reform Association to the Royal College of Physicians: "The memorial sets out that the present system of administering medical relief in the out-patient and casualty departments at most of the hospitals and infirmaries of the country is fraught with danger to the community at large, because demoralizing to those who receive it, and calculated to increase pauperism; unjust to the hospitals because their funds are wasted on undeserving objects; unjust to the medical staffs of the hospitals because they are overworked; injurious to sound clinical teaching because the out-patient departments are overcrowded; and unjust to the general body of practitioners because they are deprived of patients whose means would warrant the employment of private practitioners."

In the issue of the *Medical Record* dated New York, March 6th, 1897, is an able article by Walter B. Bronner, A.B., M.D., on the dispensaries of New York City and their abuses, from which we abstract freely. He states that in the forty-four institutions named in