

Correspondence.

THE HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN PRACTITIONER AND REVIEW.

Dear Sir:—The City Hospitals have issued their fiat that from and after the 1st January the rate to patients sent in by the City shall be seventy cents a day, or \$4.90 per week. From this the deduction may, we think, properly be drawn that henceforth these institutions are to be operated largely, if not solely, from a pecuniary standpoint, and not as should be the case from the standpoint of the greatest amount of good to the greatest possible number and at the lowest possible cost. Perhaps this is the more palpable in the case of the General Hospital for the reason that it comes more prominently under the searchlight. It has comparatively recently reorganized its ward arrangements, and wards which were public have been created semi-public where an advance can be levied. A large percentage of the public ward patients must now be content with the attic or garret, which has been assigned for their occupancy. The attic of the main building has now more than 60 beds. It was originally fitted up for infectious cases before the establishment of the Isolation Hospital, and was never intended for City Order patients.

The Government Inspector has condemned the garret wards, and it is difficult to understand why the Medical Health Officer, in view of this condemnation, should continue to allow City Order patients to be sent to quarters so unsuitable. Why does not he insist upon the semi-public and semi-private wards being allotted to City Order patients, in order that they may have proper accommodation during illness?

Evidently the precepts taught by the Good Samaritan are no longer to be considered or practised here. The whole thing has a distinctly business flavor as if its moving spirits were familiar with 100 per cent. dividends, and natural inclinations were actuated by monetary considerations.

Under the Charity Aid Act the Hospital receives from the Provincial Government a specific sum for each patient admitted, which in the aggregate amounted to nearly \$13,000 last year, and this assistance is of course given with a view to lightening the burden of those whose ailments may cause them to seek the relief which such an institution is supposed to supply and afford, and to facilitate the work which it was primarily established to