

them, added, in some measure, to the panic. I cannot say that the tone adopted by the public press made matters any better. From an early period our editorial friends had made up their minds to insist upon three demands, which the authorities concerned, as I think, with very proper firmness refused to grant. These were : first, that the names and residences of the sick should be published ; secondly, that the Board of Health should submit the details of its proceedings for public criticism ; and thirdly, that the patients in the City Hospital should be removed to the Alms House, and the former building converted, for the occasion, into a small-pox hospital ; or, according to the elegant phrase then current, a "pest house." These demands were steadily resisted. The first concession would have increased concealments, and so helped to spread the disease for the mere gratification of an idle curiosity. The second would have subjected the Board of Health to the dictation of the public, which is exactly the reverse of what the mutual relations of these two ought to be, if such a Board is to be of any use. With regard to the dispute between the public press and the Hospital Commissioners, I think that the press was decidedly wrong upon that point also. No unprejudiced person, who knows anything of the matters referred to, can doubt the propriety of providing separate hospital accommodation for infectious and non-infectious ailments, or suppose that a costly institution, supported by a permanent tax, was set up for the accommodation of diseases which do not appear amongst us as often as once in ten years. Those who wish to see a full statement of the reasons upon which the Hospital Commissioners grounded their refusal to admit the small-pox cases, will find it in an able report which these gentlemen presented to the County Sessions on the 15th of last April. It will be sufficient here to say that an arrangement was finally made with the Directors of the Female Reform Society, by which the Board of Health obtained the temporary use of their building for a small-pox hospital. Possession was given upon the 20th February.

It was generally believed at the time that if the first set of cases reported had been removed into a hospital at once, the disease would have been stayed. I am quite confident that it would not. There were then four-and-twenty other cases in progress of incubation, and had the course recommended been followed, nearly all these cases would have been concealed, and the cases infected by them would also have been hidden until the number of the sick had become so great that no hospital would hold them. It would be far better to let isolation take care of itself altogether than, by a series of indiscriminate removals, to