

in the same hospital. The private patient should contribute for his maintenance more than it costs, and this surplus is added to the total amount received from local philanthropy and municipal grants.

MEDICAL ATTENDANCE.

If we concede that our hospitals are to receive both paying and non-paying patients the community is interested in the settlement of the question who are to be the medical and surgical attendants on those for whom accommodation is provided. *The answer to this question may, in my judgment, be briefly stated:* 1. Private patients can have their own physician or surgeon attend them; 2. Semi-private patients who contribute for their maintenance a sum equal to the per capita cost of maintenance of the hospital for the past year have the same privilege; 3. Every public ward patient should be attended by the member of the staff assigned for the week or the month, as the case may be, to the particular ward to which the patient has been admitted. We sometimes hear a great deal of criticism of the rule which prevents every medical man having access to the public wards of a hospital, but those who are acquainted with hospital management know that to permit such a course is inimical to the patient and disastrous to the management and discipline of the hospital. It is along such lines and to bring about such conditions that the ward politician gloats over the prospect of posing as the poor man's friend. The public is fortunately not seriously led away with such buncombe. A regularly organized staff is essential to every city hospital and the poor when admitted to the public wards have the right to expect that all the skill of the staff, as well as all the facilities of the institution, will be exercised on his behalf. He can best obtain these by methodical arrangement of the ward service. Take a public ward of twenty-four beds and allow each patient to be followed thereto by the physician or surgeon of his own choice, the usual visiting hours being observed, imagine the confusion, out of which provoking errors would be sure to arise and picture to yourself the difficulty of providing a nursing staff that would be adequate for such conditions. The few who have advocated the expediency of establishing city hospitals where every medical man might follow his patients and treat them in public wards have, I fear, not given the matter the consideration which such a radical change should have.