

is to be remembered that the temporary want of harmony in the Central Prison was exceptional, and has not extended to any of our other institutions.

AID TO HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES.

The *Mail* newspaper has said that, of the additional sum now annually voted for hospitals and charities, beyond the amount voted in Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's time, a disproportionate part goes to Roman Catholic institutions; and other Conservatives have been asserting the same thing. Does what is said in the letters about undue influence and exceptional treatment refer to this? I can hardly think so. The facts on that subject are these, and they show beyond all cavil the reverse of exceptional treatment in favour of Roman Catholics. Soon after coming into office the present Government decided that the grants for charitable objects, instead of being determined from year to year by the discretion of the Government, might and should be regulated by some system, and the chance or suspicion of partiality be thereby removed. An Act was passed for this purpose in 1874 (cap. 33). It was entitled "An Act to regulate public aid to charitable institutions." It recited as follows:—"Whereas it is desirable and expedient that all appropriations from the public funds in aid of charitable institutions should be upon some properly arranged and equitable system, and that municipal and other corporations should be stimulated and encouraged to give a liberal support to such institutions." The Act then provides for giving a certain sum per day for every person aided in the institution; and a certain further sum per day on condition that this further sum should not exceed in any year one-fourth of the money received by the institution from all sources other than the province, towards the ordinary yearly maintenance of the institution. In carrying out the Act the Government Inspector makes a personal inspection of all institutions receiving public aid, and also procures sworn statements as to the number of persons maintained by every such institution during the year, calculates what each institution is entitled to on the basis set forth in the statute, reports the result, and the appropriation taken is of the aggregate amount which the institutions are reported by him to be entitled to receive under the Act. Both the inspectors are Protestants, and one of the two is a Presbyterian. This Act is now embodied in the Revised Statutes, cap. 223. It is by this law that our appropriations are regulated.

If, therefore, of the increased vote since Mr. Sandfield Macdonald's time the Roman Catholic institutions are now receiving more than others, it is either because the increase in the number