

the candidates, qualify for such a post. We venture to state that there are few hospitals the governors of which take sufficient trouble to visit even the out-patient department and see the work done there, or follow a surgeon's visit and see what it means for good. They attend occasional board meetings, some of them even with regularity; they may look into a ward and speak to the sister, a nurse, or a favourite patient; their name is on the list of governors of the place; they subscribe to its funds; they feel that they have done what is expected of them. A vacancy occurs amongst the staff, and a friend writes: 'Support so-and-so, he is a nephew of mine,' a Royal personage writes, or one whose influence is great, and the vote goes accordingly; besides, it saves trouble.

We would not say that there are not some who do consider the patients as well as themselves; but, alas, they are few. The right to elect gives them an increased sense of importance, and they do not appreciate their own relative ignorance of the qualifications of the candidates. The medical men attached to the hospital are undoubtedly the best judges, and it should be left to them to recommend for the election, the committee still retaining the actual power to elect, canvassing being forbidden. This method is employed at most of the large London hospitals, and works admirably. The staff are as jealous of the honor of the hospital as the most enthusiastic of governors, and are much better judges in every way of the merits of their future colleague. It seems to us derogatory to the dignity of the profession that members thereof should be compelled to visit and extol, to gentlemen not in touch with the medical sciences, the numerous perfections possessed by the visitor—that is, if opportunity be given of doing so. We must leave it to the profession to see that the opportunities of similar events occurring are diminished, for its members will have to take the first step in bringing home the truth of the matter to the governing bodies of the institutions where this system of canvassing, so humiliating to men of high principle, is still extant.

AUTOPSY OF THE LATE EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

The report of the autopsy on the body of the late Emperor of Germany has been translated and published by the *British Medical Journal*. It is as follows:—

"Schloss Friedrichskron, June 16, 1888.

—In the neck there is a stitched-up linear wound 6½ centimetres long, with rather dry edges, on the right side of which is situated a flat, pale protuberance, 2 centimetres high 1·5 wide, and 0·5 thick. Inside the wound is a large quantity of cotton-wool with bismuth, after the removal of which a cavity is left measuring 5 centimetres in depth and almost as much in length, the opening of which, after removal of the stitch, gapes to the extent of about 2½ centimetres. Moreover, the edges of the wound are tolerably hard, rather raised, and moderately tense. An incision was next made in the middle of the sternum and from thence carried subcutaneously upward on the right by the side of the wound in the neck up to the incision made over the carotid artery on the occasion of the injection. An incision made through the nodule above mentioned revealed a faintly reddish and, in the deeper parts, rather whitish, moderately compact tissue, from which a whitish juice escaped on scraping. The nodule was situated in the skin and partly in the subcutaneous tissue, but the underlying muscles were entirely free.

"A similar incision was next made on the left side. Here also the muscles on the lateral parts were normal, but in the upper parts they were very tense. Immediately in front of the larynx there was a large tumor on the left side, in the deeper parts of which a medullary-looking infiltration was seen.

"On more extensive exposure of the thorax, considerable ossification of the first rib on the left side became visible. On opening the chest, the lungs, which were pale grey, filled the pleural sacs almost completely and covered the heart. On the left side could be seen several small prominences, beneath which could be felt hard nodules covered with layers of loose connective tissue. Only at one place, near the anterior border, there was a fairly well-