

duty to protest against the proposal for the establishment of a Provincial Eye and Ear Infirmary in connection with the Hospital, believing as they do that such a scheme is not in the interests of the patients.

Without Government aid the existing Infirmary cannot be carried on as formerly, the directors would therefore recommend that at the end of the present year, in October next, the institution as an infirmary be closed; the new Board to be appointed this evening can consider whether at the end of the year the institution be continued as a dispensary or united with some medical charity of a more general character and nearer the centre of the city.

Had the Government adopted the first recommendation of the Directors and made a grant of \$5000 to the building fund, the Directors would have secured a lot and taken the entire responsibility of erecting a proper building, and the Infirmary would have been continued as a charitable institution without any extra charge upon the Government; whereas the latter have now made a grant of \$10,000 to enable the Trustees of the General Hospital to erect a building which will cost probably not less than \$17,000, the whole of which the Government may be called upon to pay, as well as the salary of a resident surgeon, in addition to the regular allowance of thirty cents a day for each patient maintained in the institution, as provided by the Charities' Aid Act.

The placing of the Infirmary on the Hospital grounds, would, doubtless, be a convenience to medical students; but in the interest of the patients, it would surely be less inconvenient for the students to come once or twice a week to the centre of the city, than for the patients and surgeons to travel daily to the General Hospital.

The Directors can not but express their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Eye and Ear Infirmary has been treated by the Government. A reference to the statistics of the Infirmary will show that during the ten years of its existence, some 3,332 poor patients have received gratuitous treatment for diseases of the eye and ear; on an average each patient has been seen or prescribed for at least ten times, making a total of over 30,000 free consultations on behalf of the destitute. Considering these facts and the great tax consequent upon the time and strength of the attending surgeons,