were far greater now than they had been at any former time, and those requirements would go on increasing. Unless the voluntary system was given the support it wanted, there was but one end, and that was that the hospitals would have to go on the rates, and unless the people in London came forward and supported the great hospitals—and the demands of St. Bartholomew's, of King's College, and Guy's, were greater than ever—the time might come when those hospitals would come on the rates. They might then take it that the expenses of the hospitals would increase, whilst the general management would certainly not be more satisfactory than it was at the present time. (Hear, hear.) He therefore thought he was justified in urging every one to recollect that the men who were doing the work for the hospitals were not the men whose pockets were the fullest, and that those people who had made their money by the work of the poor in London were the persons who should put their hands deeply into their pockets for the support of the poorer classes of the metropolis through whom they had made their wealth. (Applause.)

In replying for the "Medical and Nursing Staff of the Hospital," Mr. Watson Cheyne said there was another reason for moving the hospital besides that which the Chairman had mentioned, viz., the migration of the poor from the neighbourhood of the present hospital to the south side of the Thames, and that was that if they had not moved to another site they would have had to face the problem of pulling down the old hospital and building a modern one on the old site. This would have entailed a considerable diminution in the number of beds provided.

Other toasts were proposed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

THE HISTORY OF THE HOSPITAL.

THE Duke of Portland presided at the festival dinner of the East London Hospital for Children, which was held at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, May 22nd. Amongst those present were the Earl of Arran, the Earl of Errol, the Earl of Albemarle, Viscount Falkland, Lord and Lady Castletown, the Marchioness Cassar de Sain, the Hon. Catherine Cary, Sir Harry and Lady Samuel, Sir Henry and Lady Vavasour, and Mr. Hugh Colin Smith.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The East London Hospital for Children," briefly narrated the history of what he called this truly great and noble work of philanthropy. It was founded, he said, by a very good and heart-whole man, one Dr. Heckford, entirely at his own cost, in a warehouse at Ratcliff Cross, in January 1868. He, together with his noble wife, devoted the whole of his life and strength to its interests until his untimely death at the early age of 29 in 1871. A few days before that sad event, the site of the present hospital was purchased by the committee which had been formed to carry on and also to enlarge the scope of the work which Dr. Heckford had inaugurated. The advantage of the great and good work of the hospital was so apparent that it of course, as every good work would, quickly enlarged itself, and from its being the merely private and philanthropic work of one man, it had become an absolute necessity to the poor people in whose midst it was situated. Dr. Heckford, in 1868, inaugurated the work, with only one small ward containing 10 little iron bedsteads, there were now 3 wards for general, medical, and surgical cases, containing 97 beds and an isolation block of 10 beds, to which on an average 1,700 children of all ages up to 14 years were admitted annually. In the out-patient department too, some 35,000 individual cases were treated during the year.

If for a moment they compared the 10 little beds inaugurated in 1868, and the numbers of patients he had just quoted his hearers would see the powerful necessity there was for the children's hospital at Shadwell. The Board of Management encouraged, as it had been, by liberal grants from King Edward's Fund, had erected two isolation wards of 6 beds each, to receive whooping-cough, the mortality from which in that district was appalling. There was required before next December, if the hospital were not to have to face a considerable deficit, £4,750, as two bad financial years in succession had rendered it necessary to sell part of the small invested capital to pay off a loan from the bankers. Besides that £4,750, it was necessary to raise £1,400 in order to secure a legacy of £3,000 which had been left on that condition and a grant of £500 from the Company of Drapers towards the cost of erecting these whooping-cough wards and isolation block.

Lord Castletown replied. He mentioned that in days gone by, when funds were running short, Charles Dickens had visited the hospital and wrote an article in which he so touched the feelings of those who were able to help that £1,000 was placed in Dr. Heckford's hands, and the closing of wards, which was then imminent, was prevented.

Replying for the "Board of Management and the Medical Staff," Col. Needham referred to the loss the hospital had sustained in the appointment of the late secretary to the position of clerk to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. For 11 years Mr. Hayes had devoted himself to the service of the hospital, and had recently left, to the great regret of the Board of Management, to take up one of the highest positions in the hospital world.

The amount collected as the result of the dinner was announced as being £966.

CITY OF LONDON LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

THE first festival dinner in aid of the City of London Lying-in Hospital, which has been held for over 50 years, took place at De Keyser's Royal Hotel on Tuesday, May 23rd, the Lord Mayor in the chair. The purpose of the dinner was to assist in raising funds for the rebuilding of the old portion of the hospital, which has been rendered necessary by the very dilapidated condition into which the premises have fallen after having been in use for considerably over 100 years. About £35,000 is required for this purpose, towards which £2,625 was collected at the dinner.

The Lord Mayor in proposing "Prosperity to the City of London Lying-in Hospital," said that the appeal they were making was not the outcome of any rebuilding craze, was not the result of ambition on the part of those responsible for the management of the hospital, but it was an absolute necessity caused by the circumstance that within the last few years there had been two railways made under the City Road, the effect of which had been to cause a subsidence of soil that had endangered the hospital buildings. In fact, before the Committee of Management had come to the conclusion to rebuild, the hospital had been condemned by the local authorities as insecure. Every care had been taken to provide for the erection of suitable buildings, but, notwithstanding the exercise of all possible economy, the new hospital could not be completed for less than £35,000. The hospital was the only lying-in hospital so situated as to be able to minister to the needs of poor districts like Hoxton, Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, St. Luke's, and Islington. He felt that no other metropolitan institution was doing the same practical, necessary, and beneficial work, nor one which had stronger claims upon the charitable than that of the hospital for which it was his privilege to plead that even ing. (Applause.)