395,120 on the number of the previous year. The increase was spread over all the provinces except the Punjab.

CIVIL HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

There were no fewer than 2,459 hospitals and dispensaries under official control open in India during 1902, and 372,780 in-patients, and 24,039,114 out-patients were treated at the institutions during the year.

SANITATION.

In Calcutta the work of improving clusters of native huts was carried on mainly on the same lines as in previous years. Two hundred and twenty-eight huts were demolished during the year, thereby removing some of the most insanitary plague spots in the city. Progress was made in the extension of the filtered and unfiltered water supply, and the wastage of sullage, though still considerable, has been greatly reduced. The municipalities of the interior of Bengal spent nearly one-half of their income on sanitary works during the financial year 1901-1902. In the Punjab, important works in connection with the water supply and sanitation of several large towns were under construction in 1902. In the Central Provinces, the most important sanitary works of the year were the increase of the storage capacity of the Ambajhari reservoir, which supplies Nagpur with water, and the completion of the Bhandara water-works. The municipalities of Lower Burma spent 49 per cent. of their income, or 14 per cent. more than in the previous year, on sanitary works. The expenditure on water supply was more than doubled. In Madras city a sum of £22,500 was expended on sanitation during the year. The municipalities of Berar spent 40 per cent. of their income on sanitation, as compared with 36 per cent. in 1901.

THE INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM, WANSTEAD.

DEFECTIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR SICKNESS.

SOME months ago the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead, brought itself into unpleasant prominence. Public attention and public curiosity were excited by a letter in the *Times*, signed by the consulting physician and consulting surgeon to the institution, announcing their resignation because of the omission on the part of the committee to provide proper isolation accommodation or nursing arrangements for the 500 orphans in their charge. A letter in which they placed their resignation before the committee was also published, in which it was pointed out that the arrangements for sickness and epidemic, recommended by the consulting staff some three years previously, and then approved by the committee, had now been set aside. This was done without further consultation with the medical staff, and their request that the matter might be discussed was not granted. The publication of these letters was followed by one from the treasurer to the governor, in which he stated that everything had been done which was necessary to provide for any probable sickness in the institution. To this Dr. Herringham, the consulting physician, replied by quoting the medical officer of health for Wanstead, who reported that the infirmary accommodation was inadequate, and the disinfection not to be relied upon. He further pointed out that the committee were incurring a great responsibility by putting their judgment on matters relating to hygiene before that of the medical officer they had themselves selected. Here the matter ended, and time probably has banished any public concern which was aroused. The committee of

the Infant Orphan Asylum are pursuing the course they think best, and unless some very grave occurrence attracts public attention the matter will probably be forgotten. But the controversy has at any rate had one good effect. The London Orphan Asylum, recognising the danger of inadequately providing against epidemic, has taken advantage of the recommendations ignored by the Infant Orphan Asylum, and set its own house in order without delay. Possibly all the other well-managed orphan homes will, where it is necessary, do the same as speedily as possible.

But through this controversy round the affairs of the Infant Orphan Asylum, another and a wider issue forces itself upon our consideration. This affects the whole question of the care of orphan children in the present day. The increasing demands for improvements in education and hygiene are not to be met without a parallel increase in expenditure. Managers of institutions like the London Orphan Asylum may properly admit the force of public opinion and conform to it. Those who do not will sooner or later be held up to opprobrium. But when all has been done that science and humanity dictate to render the machinery of the orphanage above reproach, and as perfect for the purpose of maintaining and educating the orphan as is possible under such conditions, can we be satisfied that we are expending our money to the best advantage of the children we would care for by upholding the orphanage system? The thoughtful may well pause and study the many considerations which circle round the whole question.

THE STORY OF THE INSANE FROM YEAR TO YEAR.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES.

SURREY COUNTY ASYLUM AT BROOKWOOD.

ON January 1st this asylum contained 1,070 patients, and on January 31st the number had risen to 1,265. There were 296 first admissions, 37 readmissions, and 120 retransfers, 95 recoveries, 23 discharged relieved, and 111 died. The total number under treatment was 1,523, and the average daily number resident was 1,180. The recoveries were 30.52 per cent. of the admissions, and the deaths were 9.40 per cent. of the average number resident. Cerebral and spinal diseases account for 53 of the deaths, consumption for 14, other lung diseases for 7 and colitis for 1. Of the year's admissions mental anxiety is supposed to have been the cause of the insanity in 41, religion in 11, domestic trouble in 23, intemperance in drink in 60, hereditary influence in 60, old age in 34. In 40 the insanity was congenital, and in 86 no cause was known. The additions to the asylum were opened during the summer and those patients who had been boarded out at the asylums of Bristol, Gloucester, Three Counties, and Sussex, were retransferred to Brookwood. The asylum was quite large enough before these new wards were built, and to add to an asylum which already contained over 1,000 beds can only be looked upon as a blunder, and probably an expensive blunder. A reservoir capable of containing 750,000 gallons of water has been made, and also a new coal-store which will hold 425 tons. Both these are most useful if not necessary adjuncts. Attendant Hobson received a pension of £60 a year, attendant Wyndebank one of £45, William Trower, the fitter, one of £65, and gardener-attendant Daborne one of 14s. a week. "The committee desire to express their approval of the management of the asylum by the medical superintendent."