HOSPITAL OPINION.

[Contributions critical, suggestive, controversial, and technical are invited for this column, which is open to everyone who has anything to say that is of practical value and interest.]

THE PROPOSED CENTRAL HOSPITALS BOARD FOR LONDON.

A paragraph, which appears in your issue of 22nd inst., under the heading of "Notes and News," states that "a minority of the hospital secretaries are, we understand, actively fermenting a strenuous opposition to the proposed Central Hospitals Board. It is reported that a meeting of these gentlemen has been held at the Royal Free Hospital."

This paragraph is so entirely incorrect and misleading that I desire to correct it by a statement of the facts respecting the meeting referred to.

Being desirous of ascertaining what were the opinions of some of my brother officials on the subject of the proposed Central Board, I invited about thirty hospital secretaries to a social gathering, for the purpose of affording an opportunity for an informal conversation on this question, which is of paramount importance to all who are engaged in hospital work. It was distinctly understood that we met solely for interchange of views, and that no resolutions would be brought forward. Whatever may have been the opinions expressed by others, I may venture to state that, speaking as a private individual and not as representing any institution, I am personally not averse to some kind of central board, although I am not able to approve the schemes which have already been brought forward. I am, yours faithfully,

CONRAD W. THIES.

Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.

April 24th, 1893.

* * We publish this letter with pleasure, although it does not controvert in any way the statement that "a minority of the hospital secretaries are fermenting a strenuous opposition to the proposed Hospitals Board." It is important that this statement should be definitely confirmed or refuted. Besides, Mr. Thies only states his own views, without in any way denying that the majority of the speakers at the meeting in question were hostile to the formation of a Central Hospitals Board for London.—ED. T. H.

CONSTRUCTION NOTES.

FIVE hundred pounds has been received by the Committee of the Glasgow Samaritan Hospital for Women towards the capital account of the trustees of the Bellahouston Fund. It has been decided to erect a hospital to provide accommodation for from twenty-five to thirty beds, on a site adjoining the Victoria Baths.

THE MANCHESTER SOUTHERN AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL.—Mr. John Ely, F.R.I.B.A., of Manchester, has designed these new buildings, which are to be erected on a site in Oxford-road, and facing the Whitworth Park, granted free of cost, save a low chief rent, by the Council of Owens College. The cost is estimated at about £12,000. The administrative block will face Oxford Road, and will be built of red brick and terra-cotta.

IN the annual report of the Committee of the Hounslow Hospital, it was stated that it is decided to build a new ward forthwith, to be called the "Heston" Ward, in compliance with injunctions from the late Mr. W. Taylor, who contributed £500 for the erection of the same. Two additional bedrooms for the medical staff are also to be added. The whole of the sanitary arrangements are to be altered and improved, and the ventilation of the wards will be rendered more satisfactory.

THE proposed hospital for infectious diseases at Stroud is to be planned by Mr. Milnes, who estimates that the cost of the building will be £4,000, exclusive of the cost of site and of the furniture. The hospital, the construction of which is to be proceeded with forthwith, is to be erected of brick, stone, and slate, and will consist of four blocks, i.e., one administrative and three diseases blocks, to accommodate thirty-six patients (each ward containing two wards of six beds each), of which one block is to be reserved for small-pox. A piece of land will be purchased immediately adjoining the site chosen for the hospital for the purpose of isolation of the same, which site is on the north-east corner of the land at the workhouse belonging to the Stroud Union.

FESTIVAL DINNERS.

THE NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.

Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, M.P., presided at the annual festival of this charity at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole. Amongst those present were Mr. A. Hoare (treasurer), Mr. J. D. Alcroft, Mr. C. Tyler, Colonel A. M. Arthur, the Rev. H. Hughes, Mr. J. S. Fletcher, the Rev. A. Godson, Dr. F. Weaver, Mr. W. F. Malcolm, Mr. T. F. Downes, Mr. H. C. Burdett, Dr. F. R. Walters, Dr. Douglas Pidcock, Dr. J. E. Squire, Dr. Watson, Mr. C. E. Grase-man, Dr. Danford Thomas, Dr. Bernard Dyer, the Rev. T. Turner, Dr. Forbes Winslow, and Mr. L. H. Hill (secretary). The Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the North London Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest." He said they were there to aid in fighting the saddest and surest of all the diseases that afflict humanity, and he was glad to say that he had received many letters from various parts of the country expressing sympathy with their work. Among others he had received a letter from the late Lord Derby regretting his inability to attend, and referring to a contribution, which he said he hoped would compensate for his absence—one of the last acts of a truly English life being to help the hospital in whose aid they were met that night. London was a place peculiarly favourable to the development of this disease, and he thought he might say that the hospital was in the right place and was conducted on the right lines, and he hoped they would make a special effort this year to support the extension of the work. In response subscriptions were announced to the amount of £1,200.

SCRAPS AND GLEANINGS.

OVER 12,000 persons are found employment for in the theatres of our Metropolis.

DR. REIDAL, physician to the King of Spain, visits his Royal patient three times during the day.

THERE are 950 miles of telephone line between New York and Chicago; this is the greatest length extant.

THE authorities of Waltham Abbey have made arrangements to erect an Infectious Diseases Hospital.

THE first prize for the best examination to the University of Chicago was passed last Christmas by a young coloured lady.

THE site for the proposed infectious diseases hospital at Northam continues to cause much discussion among the ratepayers.

A RUSSIAN peasant has just died aged 120 years. One of his sons had attained the age of 92, and his father was 130 when he died.

THE electric lighting of the Chicago Exhibition will have to be provided with 15,000,000 feet of insulated wire in order to distribute the current.

IT is satisfactory to be able to state in the interests of the Swansea Hospital that the financial proceeds of the annual ball recently held amount to £93.

THE Swedes have a curious method of treating drunkards; these offenders are imprisoned forthwith, and during their detention are fed on bread and wine.

THE annual meeting of German Naturalists and Medical men will be held in September at Nuremberg. The addresses will be delivered by Professor V. Helmholtz.

THE report of the annual meeting of the Horsham Cottage Hospital was a most favourable one. The Committee's report dealt with a period of six months, during which no death had occurred. There was a balance in hand of £149 13s.

PROTESTS against the proposed site, at Canterbury, of an Infectious Diseases Hospital, continue to increase in numbers. The site is objected to as interfering with, and virtually destroying, one of the most frequented walks round Canterbury.

WE are glad to be able to report that the Duke of Westminster has given £100 towards the cost of sending to every clergyman in the kingdom a copy of the first number of "Temporal Welfare," the organ of the Church of England Sanitary Association.

VOICES are urgently needed for George Edward Ferguson, who is a candidate for election, May, 1893 (last chance), at the Royal Medical Benevolent College, Epsom. Proxies will be thankfully received by Mrs. K. Ferguson, Glendale, Taswell Road, Southsea.

THE Coventry Provident Dispensary has now 25,000 members. This establishment was built for the avowed purpose of encouraging thrift among the poor; but it appears that many of the members belong to a class who have no right to derive benefits from a provident institution.

THE bazaar held recently in the Eye Infirmary at Sunderland proved a great financial success, as well as enabling visitors to inspect the new buildings, £200 was added to the funds of the institution through receipts from the two days' sale, and the existing mortgage was paid off.

THE Editor of a Budapest newspaper has given 250,000 florins on the death of his wife, for the foundation of a children's hospital for that city. This generous gift comes from one of the Jewish faith, indeed, few but Jews ever devote such sums to purposes of that charitable kind in Hungary.