

feeling ill, was sent to a General Hospital, there being no accommodation for adult patients at our Hospital. At the time she left, the nature of her malady was doubtful. Four days later information was received that the Nurse was suffering from typhoid fever. There is reason to believe that the disease was contracted by direct contagion from a case of typhoid fever which had been under her care. The Nurse referred to is now convalescent.

II. Nurse Bishop, who came in on the same day, viz., November 3, was given the bed thus vacated. Owing to the limited accommodation there was no choice in the matter. Had the previous case been *recognised* as typhoid fever the blankets would naturally have been changed. Even in the above doubtful circumstances this precaution would have been judicious, and if, as you assert, it was neglected, the Committee can but express their great regret. The statements made on this point are unfortunately conflicting. A few days after she came, Nurse Bishop told the Matron that she feared she was getting one of her "old attacks." (It was known that she had recently suffered from repeated attacks of illness, said to be tubercular). When asked if she would go home she declined to do so. At midnight on the 14th she fainted, as you say, and was sent to bed at once. Her temperature was taken by the Matron then and next morning, and it was found to vary very slightly, if at all, from the normal. Next morning she said she felt better and seemed to be so to the Matron and her fellow Nurses. The Matron offered to ask one of the Staff to see her, but Nurse Bishop declared it was one of her "old attacks," and that she had better go home and place herself under the care of the Doctor who usually attended her. No one who saw her thought that her appearance indicated inability to go across London alone. Had this been suspected the Matron would certainly have sent some one with her. The Committee feel that, as things turned out, it would have been a comfort to Nurse Bishop's friends had this been done; but they are sure that it was omitted through no lack of care and attention on the part of the officials, but simply that Nurse Bishop's manner and appearance did not indicate such weakness as her journey brought out. No one in the Hospital, nor even Nurse Bishop's greatest friend among the Nurses heard of the high temperature, to which you refer on the Tuesday and Wednesday, nor indeed that she was taking her temperature. In these circumstances you will, I trust, agree that the mere fact of the fainting on the night before did not suggest either serious illness or inability to go home alone.

III. Nurse Phillips left the Hospital on December 22, 1890, so far as the Matron and Resident Staff knew, *perfectly well*. The Nurses have been questioned, and to none of them had she complained of illness. If she had diarrhoea, no one knew of it. This, in the view of the Committee, does away with all suspicion of carelessness in her treatment. As to the expression she is said to have made use of in a lucid interval, viz., "That she did not know whether she was on her head or heels for some time past."—it appears that this was a common phrase with her when she was at all flurried, and does not justify the inference that she was over-worked. I may add that Nurse Phillips at no time occupied the bed in which Nurse Bishop slept.

As regards the drainage system and arrangements, neither pains nor expense have been at any time spared to render them in all respects satisfactory. In consequence of the above most regrettable occurrences, however, a thorough investigation and testing has been resorted to, and is indeed still in progress. So far the drains are found to be satisfactory, though some slight modifications are recommended. All such recommendations will, I need hardly say, be carefully considered when the survey has been completed.

This, I fear, is all I can say on the subject. That the Committee, as well as myself, feel very great regret at these occurrences, I need hardly assure you, and I wish further to

express our great sympathy with you at the loss of your sister.—Yours, &c.,

GEORGE HANBURY,
Chairman of Committee.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Paddington Green Children's Hospital,
Paddington Green, London,
March 9, 1891.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital to inform you that they have thoroughly investigated the charges conveyed by Mrs. Coningsby's letter, in your paper of the 29th January last.

Briefly the facts are the following:—

(1) All clothes, blankets as well as sheets, were removed from the bed occupied by the first Nurse who left the Hospital ill, and Nurse Bishop's bed was made with clean clothes, by Nurse Bishop herself, with the assistance of one of the maids.

(2) On the morning of November 15 (Nurse Bishop having fainted on the night of the 14th), the Matron asked her to see one of the Medical Staff; but believing that one of her "old attacks" (Nurse Bishop had suffered previously from some obscure complaint, which she herself said was regarded as tubercular) was coming on, she said she would go home at once and place herself under the care of her own Doctor. To the Matron and her fellow-Nurses, all of whom have been carefully questioned, Nurse Bishop presented no signs of such weakness as the journey to Tooting seems to have brought out, and no doubt arose in the Matron's mind as to Nurse Bishop's ability to go home alone.

As to the alleged high temperature which Mrs. Coningsby reports on the Tuesday and Wednesday before Nurse Bishop left the Hospital, no one in the Hospital knew even that Nurse Bishop was taking her temperature. Nurse Bishop's temperature was taken on the night of the 14th and morning of 15th November and was found to be normal.

(3) With regard to Nurse Phillips, she was given a month's notice on November 22, and accordingly left on December 22, being at that time—so far as her fellow-Nurses and the Matron knew—perfectly well. The Nurses have been questioned, and neither the Nurse who shared a room with Nurse Phillips, nor the Nurse on duty with her, knew either that she was ill or that she was suffering from diarrhoea as alleged.

(4) With respect to the sanitary system of the Hospital, an immediate investigation was ordered, and has now been carried out, the result being that no serious defect has been discovered by the surveyors. Some minor alterations were suggested, and are now receiving attention.

(5) In conclusion, the Committee are satisfied that no blame whatever attaches to the Matron or other official of the Hospital in the above matters.

The insertion of this in your next issue will be esteemed by my Committee.—I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. PEARCE, *Secretary*.

[We have had much pleasure in drawing attention to this matter. It appears to us that there must be grave sanitary defects, or at least grave neglect of hygienic details, at this Hospital. Everyone must sympathise deeply with the bereaved relatives of these two Nurses. But we think that it should be recognised that the Committee has evidently inquired carefully into the matter, and we imagine from the tone of Mr. Hanbury's letter that it will not be his fault nor that of the Committee if matters are not at once and greatly improved. So we trust that out of evil good may come.—ED.]

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Dear Sir,—The Committee of the Paddington Green Children's Hospital, after investigating matters regarding illness and death of the two young Nurses (Nurses Bishop and

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