

arriving there, from other parishes. Our correspondents inform us that the immediate vicinity is crowded with buildings, and densely overpopulated by very poor families, and that the back of this fever hospital is about a hand-touch from another building. Putting aside, therefore, the manifest disadvantages to patients suffering from fear of being thus crowded together with such small ventilation spaces, it is plain that the dangers to the health of the poor from this concentrated focus of infection must have been very considerable, and the excitement which has been aroused upon the matter can easily be understood.

The result of the discovery was that indignation meetings were held, and that a protest signed by five hundred of the inhabitants was presented to the Vestry by a deputation of rate-payers. The Vestry appears to have shared very strongly the opinion expressed by our contemporary, *The Marylebone Mercury*, that "it is intolerable that anyone should, as a private speculation, create a dangerous nuisance in the midst of a dense population. The profits derived from such a speculation are doubtless very large and very tempting, both to the leaseholder and his tenant; but we are unable to see that one or two unscrupulous persons are justified, in order to obtain these large profits, in endangering the lives of the other inhabitants and depreciating the value of their property."

The next step seems to have been in the form of a motion made in the High Court of Justice for an injunction to restrain Miss POLLOCK from receiving or keeping patients suffering from infectious diseases in these houses, with the result, apparently, that this lady undertook that all the patients should be removed by to-day, and that no more should be received. To quote our contemporary again: "An end has therefore been put to a state of things which otherwise might easily have developed into a very serious danger and annoyance to the whole neighbourhood."

The case draws attention again to a serious subject. Some few months ago a correspondence took place in the columns of this Journal which proved that there was a very deep feeling of dissatisfaction both on the part of the public and of well-trained Nurses concerning the management of the great majority of Nursing Homes. There is too much reason to fear that most of these Institutions are started and carried on by persons who are entirely ignorant of Nursing matters, and whose object is to make large profits out of the credulity of medical men and the helplessness of the sick. We took con-

siderable trouble to test some startling statements contained in various communications which we received at the time to which we have referred, and we have no hesitation in expressing our opinion that some well-known Surgeons must have been absolutely ignorant of the manner in which the Homes were conducted to which they sent their cases, and to which, therefore, they entrusted their patients' lives and their own reputations. We were told, for example, of a widow who opened a Nursing Home because she did not know how else to support herself. She had not had a day's Hospital experience, but she was an object of sympathy, and medical men—proverbially the kindest-hearted race—were persuaded to send her patients. She employed one Nurse to take care of all the ordinary cases during the day. It never occurred to her that sick people needed attention in the night, and, at any rate in this house, they did not receive it. If a patient was very bad she procured them a special Nurse, who had to sleep in the patient's room—whether the patient was a man or a woman—and the value of whose assistance, when asleep, it probably never occurred to the proprietress to calculate. It not unfrequently occurred that patients with typhoid fever or measles were being nursed in the next room to severe operation cases, and more than one child was attacked by measles while being treated for some other complaint. More than one case nearly died from secondary hæmorrhage before the bleeding was discovered by the overworked Nurse, who was expected to be in every room at the same moment. We could give even worse examples, which we have also verified concerning other Homes, were there any necessity.

But we have said sufficient to justify us in expressing our firm conviction that the public is becoming greatly and most unjustly prejudiced against Nursing Homes, as a class, because of the scandalous unscrupulousness with which some, and the almost criminal carelessness with which others, are at present managed. We consider that it behoves medical men to institute most careful inquiries into at least the following points before they entrust their patients to the care of any Nursing Home. Who is in charge of the patients, and what Nursing experience has she had? Are there any Night Nurses, or are the day staff expected to be awake and attentive during the night as well? Are cases of infectious fevers admitted into the same house and attended by the same Nurses as those who are in charge of dangerous opera-

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