

house wherein the women and children are domiciled could not be properly carried out by men, nor could they be satisfactorily visited by women either if the hard and fast lines which the West Derby Guardians seem inclined to lay down, that visits shall only be made at certain times, and in the presence of officials, were adhered to. Under such conditions as these, few irregularities or defects in management would see the light, and no inmate, however neglected or aggrieved, would dare to make complaint. For the present, this Mill-road incident ends with Miss CALDERWOOD'S vindication of the right of lady guardians to make their visits without being trammelled by conditions which would defeat the very object they were elected to bring about. That the Visiting Committee had passed any censure upon Miss JOHNSON was denied; but none the less it seems that some apology is due to that lady for the misconstruction placed upon a visit which was quite informal, and actuated by a most kindly purpose.

* * *

THE following is a very instructive story especially in connection with the subject discussed in our Editorial this week:—

“George Tarrant, aged 39, a cabdriver, threw himself or fell from the window of the Mile-end Infirmary, where he was a patient. At the Inquest Emily Orchard, Night Nurse, deposed that the deceased had been under her care. He asked her to get him something to drink, and she left the ward. In her absence he disappeared. The jury was inquisitive as to her duties. She had, she said, two wards, containing 63 patients, to attend to during the night. A night superintendent visited the wards four times in the night. It would take her two or three minutes to get from the end of one ward, across the corridor, to the end of the other ward.

The Foreman: How many hours are you on duty?

Witness: I do 12 hours' duty.

The Jury: Shame.

The Foreman: It's the guardians', not the nurse's, fault.

Dr. J. H. Brooks, assistant medical officer, deposed that the deceased was suffering from acute heart disease. It would be natural for a man in that condition to go to the window for fresh air. The exertion attendant upon opening the window might have caused the man to overbalance and fall. Witness was of opinion that death was due to heart failure caused by the exertion of opening the window. He was of this opinion despite the fact the man had fallen 30ft. and had broken his ribs and ruptured several organs.

Wm. Lawrence, another inmate, said he saw Tarrant with one leg on the window-sill, evidently in the act of getting out. He disappeared before witness could reach him. He deliberately threw himself from the window.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of suicide. The jury added the opinion that the night nursing staff was insufficient, and that the attention of the guardians ought to be again called to the subject. The foreman said that the attention of the guardians was drawn to the subject some time back, but nothing appeared to have been done.

S. G.

“The Truth about the London Hospital.”

HERE is an old saying “That truth will out,” and I must congratulate the Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* upon the courageous and disinterested policy of his Journal, which has told the truth about the London Hospital. Sending a Special Commissioner into the Hospital, as a Paying Probationer, to learn the truth, whether for good or evil, concerning this Institution, is one of the smartest bits of journalistic business that has been done for some time—but the *Pall Mall* is nothing if not enterprising. For ourselves, so well has the condition of things been known to us, and frankly commented upon, times without number, in this Journal, that our only wonder has been that the press, in some instances gagged, and in others over-timorous, has failed to inquire, as it ought to have done, into the matter before. On July the 18th, the first of three articles, ably written, and showing in every line, truth, intelligence, and a total lack of personal animus, appeared in the *Pall Mall*, headed “The Truth about the London Hospital, by our Special Commissioner.” There can be no doubt that the *Pall Mall* has employed, as Mr. Burdett advised, one of the best of its special correspondents. She writes:—

“I applied to the London Hospital, and after a short correspondence and an interview with the Matron, Miss Luckes,

I WAS ADMITTED AS A PAYING PROBATIONER, on depositing thirteen guineas for three months' training as a Nurse.

To be brief, the management of the London Hospital is conducted on a system which I do not understand. As I shall show, there seems to be a total want of oversight, much wastefulness, and much carelessness of what happens to the patients and the Nurses. I doubt not that there are many poor people relieved and cured in the London Hospital who would probably suffer greatly but for the kind and attentive care of the Nurses, and the skilful treatment of the doctors and surgeons in attendance upon them. But apart from this, looking at the management as a system, it seems to be conducted in a slipshod and inconsiderate manner; there does not seem to be anything like uniformity, conformity, or consistency in the instruction of Probationers, or even in the distribution of Nurses throughout the various wards. Customs are allowed that are so dangerous, and in such direct opposition to the teaching of the doctors of the Hospital, that I am astonished that they have not been protested against. The report given out for this year states several things that are not in accordance with my experience, nor, unluckily, with the experiences of many Nurses now at the Hospital whom I met while there.

The first thing that strikes one about the Hospital are the begging boxes with the

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