

Luxmoore Drew, took the precaution of having the body placed under glass before being viewed by the jury. It would be an admirable idea to have one of the newly-invented American glass coffins in every mortuary to meet such cases as these.

Mr. Drew's zeal as a coroner is in striking contrast to that of a provincial Coroner who was recently charged for an assault on a constable, who, finding the dead body of a woman in the road, at once did his duty by seeking out the Coroner and reporting the case. But the Coroner was playing at lawn tennis, and was so irate at having his game interfered with that he assaulted the constable—who, no doubt, was looking for praise for his enthusiasm!

At the recent meeting of the Liverpool Hospital Saturday and Sunday Fund, the Lord Mayor (Lord Derby) in the chair, it was stated that the Committee had been able to distribute £11,000 (the largest since the fund was established), and there was a balance of £389. Mr. William Crosfield said he noticed that the Lord Mayor-Elect of London proposed to establish a National Fund in support of needy charities of, he presumed, the City of London. If the proposal was what it seemed to be, they in the provinces, having onerous duties in connection with their medical charities, might find occasion to protest. If a national effort was put forward it would deprive other deserving charities of needed help, and an appeal to the country might have a deleterious influence upon their local charities. Lord Derby confessed that in the matter of charities he was somewhat of a Home Ruler, and he shared Mr. Crosfield's doubts about the wisdom of nationalising these things. The more they could keep the source of relief to the place and persons where and to whom it was distributed, the better it would be. He did not preach limitation, but he believed it had many advantages, not the least of which was that all classes were brought together. Especially was this noticeable in the Hospital funds. They had brought workers together from all fields and denominations, and it was satisfactory that the Saturday Fund especially had been well supported.

The David Lewis bequest controversy, which has been raging at Manchester, appears to be now closed. And the £50,000 which Mr. Lewis hoped would found a splendid new Hospital for women and children—the conditions imposed being that the two present Hospitals for these cases, St. Mary's and the Southern Hospital, should combine their funds and work the new building jointly—will have to be devoted to some other purpose. The Board of St. Mary's Hospital is to blame, as they looked at the matter from a small party spirit, and placed every obstacle in the path of such an admirable co-operation. In charities it is of the utmost importance to combine as far as possible to reduce working expenses. And it is impracticable and absurd to have two Hospitals where one larger one would serve the purpose better. There was sufficient money to provide a splendid new Hospital, and the combined funds of the Southern and St. Mary's would nearly have sufficed to maintain it in working order. But St. Mary's proved inexorably obstinate.

The Royal Institute for the Blind in Copenhagen.

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LARGE and perfect in its kind was the gymnasium. Here we found about two dozen little girls drilling in linen knickerbockers and blouses. A drill-master directed them, while a lady-teacher sat by and watched.

As the pupils were, of course, unable to follow directions by sight, older pupils were engaged in teaching the newcomers by moving their limbs and bodies in the way directed by the word of command.

Like all young things these elder pupils were energetic teachers, and enforced the system they had mastered themselves with amusing vigour. I must confess the new pupils did not look very happy. It was all new to them, and this wholesome but novel form of discipline was especially trying.

"We have just entered upon a new term," explained the Superintendent, "and this is the hardest time for pupils and masters. But they begin to understand the system already. Do you see that little girl?" and he pointed to a child too far off to catch our words; "when she came last week, she would throw herself down at the slightest provocation, and howl till she was almost ill. She had always been indulged on account of her infirmity, and had not the slightest idea of any form of self-restraint. In a week we had taught her that this would not pass, and she is physically and morally healthier for the lesson."

Besides careful ventilation and physical training, the authorities place great importance on the diet of the children. To avoid the possibility of any want of generosity in this it is arranged that staff and pupils take their meals together in a large refectory. The staff occupies a separate table, but the food for all is the same. The children only occupy one side of the table on which their meals are served, so that the attendants can pass easily between them.

With regard to servants the Royal Institute is purposely chary. Except in the general rooms of the establishment, the girls are taught to be their own servants. To keep their bedrooms in order, to make their beds, to care for their own persons and those of the younger pupils, to execute promptly and cleverly the hundred and one little domestic tasks that every woman ought to have at her fingers' ends.

It is wonderful what blind girls can do when they have been systematically taught to put themselves and their ailments aside, and enter into the spirit of their tasks. It almost seems as if there were no such word as "can't" in the dictionary of the Royal Institute. If a thing ought to be done, it *can* be done; it *shall* be done—seems graven into the hearts of the teachers there, and by them on those of the pupils.

Help yourselves. Be useful. *Do* things, and be glad of what you have done. Don't expect pity, but work for respect. Such sentiments give a breezy atmosphere of "go" to the workshops and workrooms of the place.

As I walked on through that hive of confident, plucky workers, and saw how good the work done was of its kind—pity gave way to admiration. The brushes, rugs, mats, &c., I was tempted to buy—not from any sense of charity, but because they were ex-

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