

GUZZLING GUARDIANS.

THIS week's *London* records the triumph of right against might. Right in the person of Mr. John Lobb, and might as represented by his incensed colleagues. No one who has followed the accounts given by our esteemed contemporary, of the difference between Mr. Lobb and the City Guardians, could doubt the ultimate issue, when the matter was laid before the Local Government Board. We congratulate Mr. Lobb on the result of his courageous exposure of abuses, and yet further upon his good fortune in obtaining the support of *London*, whose plucky action in ventilating the matter has in a great measure, we believe, contributed to the rectification of the scandal.

We subjoin *London's* account of the last banquet of the City Guardians and of the subsequent meeting.

"The City fathers died fighting—and feasting. The new order was not to be read until Tuesday afternoon. On Monday the 'guzzlers' threw all thoughts of the morrow to the winds and had their farewell supper at the infirmary. The speeches and toasts could be better described as *ante-mortem* rather than *post prandial*; and, despite the efforts of the presiding Mr. Lile to be cheerful, there was a settled gloom over the company, and many regretful glances were made in the direction of the wine cupboards, which so soon were to be closed for ever.

"The last scene of all, was remarkable to a degree. On Tuesday, the feasters were at bay in their own Board room. There they lost both their dinners and their heads. The Guardians wept tears of rage over their loss, and the frenzied scenes have no parallel in the history of the City Guardians. The Guardians, whose appetites had lured them on to their own destruction, seemed loth to put in an appearance. The face of each old gentleman, as he stole shamefacedly to his seat, was a study. One instinctively recalled Horace's phrase about the body, overcharged with yesterday's excesses, weighing down the soul along with it. John Lobb's arrival produced all kinds of facial expressions, and a quiet smile of triumph played about his mouth in return. The arrival of Mr. A. C. Morton was regarded in much the same way as a cat would on seeing a live crab for the first time. The Chairman's rendering of the reference on the agenda to the Local Government Board's opinion of the character of the dinners was solemn to a degree, and was greeted with cries of 'Read the letter.'"

This the clerk proceeded to do, and announced that—

"With regard to the dinners which appear to have been provided, the Board are clearly of opinion that meals of the character referred to should be discontinued. The refreshments provided should only be such as are reasonably necessary, having regard to the hours of attendance. Only the actual cost of these refreshments should be paid for out of the rates, and clearly no charge should be made in respect of any Guardian who does not partake of them, and the names of each Guardian so partaking should be entered in a book, to

be produced to the Auditor. The Board consider that the storage, at the workhouse, of wines and spirits for the use of the Guardians is open to objection, and they trust that it will be discontinued. The charges for the travelling expenses of the Guardians should be limited to the actual expenses, *bona fide* and reasonably incurred by the Guardians visiting the workhouse and infirmary."

After this a scene ensued which has never we believe, been surpassed, even at a meeting of the Royal British Nurses' Association.

Mr. Lobb rose and "slated" the Committee. White with passion, the Chairman rose and said he was not going to allow Mr. Lobb to stand there and insult the Board. It was positively disgraceful. Mr. Lobb said that he should object as much as he liked, and the Chairman then entered into a personal encounter with Mr. Lobb, and ruled him out of order, and so on. There can, we think, be but one opinion on the subject—namely, that it is high time that both the Guardians' feasts, and unedifying scenes such as we have described above, came to an end. We may remark, in conclusion, that much has been written concerning the cost of the food, and the stores consumed by the City Guardians at the institutions under their direction; but very little stress has been laid on the enormous expense of the domestic service necessary for all this festivity. Imagine the cost of time of the domestic staff, who had to prepare and serve these banquets, the damage of crockery and glass and house linen, and the resulting pressure and disorganization of domestic arrangements. No doubt one of the persons most sincerely to be congratulated by the discontinuance of the "weekly gorge of Guardians" is the matron of the infirmary, where the practice must have produced endless friction and annoyance.

Röntgen Rays in War.

FROM Dr. Abbott's report, published in the *Daily Chronicle*, we reprint the following interesting information concerning the use of the Röntgen rays in war.

RÖNTGEN RAY APPARATUS.

"The fine Röntgen ray apparatus supplied by the Fund was far too heavy to take with us overland. Coming round by sea it did not arrive till the armistice was signed, and some time after the battle of Domoko. Most of the bullets had therefore been extracted, and

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