

HOUSE-KEEPING.

There was immense waste owing to the lack of responsible house-keeping, especially in the officers' mess. Things were wastefully used, table napkins were used to clean knives, and a great smashing of crockery took place, the food was improperly cooked, and dirtily served. It appeared nobody's duty to supervise.

THE SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

The sanitary arrangements were defective. The floors, instead of being thoroughly scrubbed, were "slushed over" with dirty water and without soap, and the beds were dirty, the bed-pans not properly disinfected and left in the wards, there was a great shortage of sheets, and Mrs. Chamberlain had seen orderlies throw the typhoid bed-linen on the floor, and without disinfecting sheets, rinse them through cold water in the lavatory, and after drying them place them on beds for the reception of non-infectious patients. Lord Justice Romer was very inquisitive on this point, but Mrs. Chamberlain had evidently followed the orderlies from pillar to post, and was *au fait* with the whole process. Later the Head Sister requisitioned "tubs" for disinfecting the enteric bed-linen. Draw-sheets were seldom used. Much of the dirt was owing to lack of hot-water appliances. These were so scarce that patients were sent unwashed to operations, and hot-water bottles were not at hand in cases of collapse.

The milk was not sterilized, although it came from many quarters, and enteric fever was common in the vicinity, and although there was an ample supply of *fresh* milk offered to the P.M.O., condensed milk was constantly used. The refuse of the wards was swept up and dumped down in a heap close to the entrance of the hospital, and though ultimately burnt, whilst lying about it was picked over by Kaffirs and became a possible source of spreading disease outside, and much of the typhoid which occurred in the neighbourhood was put down to this practice, the sanitary inspector having issued a report on the same. Enteric fever also developed amongst the orderlies in the hospital.

THE TREATMENT OF LUNATICS.

Mrs. Chamberlain took firm exception to the manner in which lunatics were treated, and said they ought to have been placed where they did not disturb and alarm the sick, and in reply to a question, "Do you think you are a better judge of how a lunatic ought to be treated than an army doctor?" Her answer, "Yes—than certain doctors—or I should not be giving evidence here," aroused amusement; and then, as the learned Judge pleaded once more for "facts" and not "opinions," Mrs. Chamberlain rose to the occasion and gave two instances which had

come under her personal observation at No. 1 Wynberg. The first was the sad case of a young Royal Artillery officer, who was placed in an ordinary sick ward which contained several serious cases, although in a raving condition and dangerous, during which time he caused serious disturbance. He covered his uniform with wreaths of oleander, and danced about the ward playing the banjo, and it was not until he had smashed ward furniture in a struggle with an orderly that he was removed to a lunatic asylum. "Even an army doctor could see he was out of his mind," said Mrs. Chamberlain, smiling over the table at the sceptical chairman. The second case, or "fact," cited was that of a young officer suffering from melancholia, who had once attempted suicide by poison and had a recurrence of insanity up country. In spite of this history, he was not supervised, and was treated in a general ward as an ordinary patient. Eventually he was sent to the military convalescent home at Claremont, with no notification of his condition to the authorities, and he shot himself the next morning. This "fact" scored somewhat, the reporters gasped, and then flung themselves headlong at their notebooks and pens spluttered excitedly.

RECREATION DISCOURAGED.

Mrs. Chamberlain was of the opinion that healthy occupation, recreation, and amusement, for convalescent soldiers would have helped to keep the sick-wards quiet, and would have given pleasure to the men. All suggestions to thus help to while away a wearisome time were opposed by the medical authorities. The suggestion to use the School House for a library and work-room on week-days, which was used for service on Sundays, was not absolutely forbidden, but every difficulty was placed in the way of the scheme. Even the distribution of newspapers from home was stopped by the P.M.O. until Lord Roberts was communicated with and an order got from him allowing it to be continued.

"DRUNKEN DOCTORS."

Mrs. Chamberlain then entered a protest against army doctors whom she had seen constantly drunk when on duty, being sent home in charge of invalids on transport ships. [We know of one who attempted to cut his throat on the passage.] This was an easy but unscrupulous method of getting rid of men of intemperate habits. Here, again, Lord Justice Romer wanted "names," and invited the witness to write on a piece of paper the three names of doctors and ships referred to, and the reporters again enjoyed a nimble passage of arms between the *dramatis personæ* around the imposing centre table. No, Mrs. Chamberlain would not give all the names; one she disclosed, and the names

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