

This thing must not be. The day for such deeds, let us hope and believe, is gone for ever. They are not likely to be revived in our midst, unless I am a bad judge of the character of Englishmen in Surrey. The duties of the Committee of the Royal Surrey County Hospital are to advance and watch over its interests; to see that the whole staff does its duty. The members of this Committee are not public censors, nor spiritual directors, nor grand inquisitors, but, let us hope and believe, honest charitable Christians. If they assume to themselves the rôle of religious persecutors and fanatics, then let the charitable Christian men of Surrey unhesitatingly and once and for all remind them of the error of their ways.

Mr. Gibson, the Hon. Sec. of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, states that the Matron has not received notice to leave. It is a fact that the Committee have known for some time that she was admitted to the Roman Catholic Church, and the matter will come under the consideration of the Committee at an early date.

This is a question which is not quite so easily disposed of as the good father concludes, as it intimately affects many interests in a county hospital, more especially the discipline of the training school for nurses attached. No Roman Catholic community—and we do not blame it—would retain as the head of a charitable institution under its direction a woman who became a Protestant, and experience has proved that it would be more Christian upon the part of a Matron who changes her religion to resign a position where the change of faith must inevitably injure the material welfare of a public institution, than to retain it.

The poor inmates of the Roehford Infirmary owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Padfield, wife of the Rector of Hawkwell, who paid a surprise visit to the institution, and wrote to the Board of Guardians as follows:—

Re consumptive patient in last stages.

The tea looked as if it had been well boiled, and only a suspicion of milk added; also it was without sugar. Two half-slices of bread, quite half-an-inch thick, with only sufficient butter for one half-slice! This at 5 p.m., and no other food is given until next morning, though, after my visit on Saturday, one patient had a pint of milk given her, and, to use her own words, "It was nice," she not having had any since admission.

General complaints were heard about the potatoes being boiled with the "eyes" not removed; marrows boiled with peel still on; cabbage with insects in, one being certainly an inch long; and soup so unpalatable that it could not be eaten.

And so these weak and suffering women practically fast from breakfast till tea-time on Sundays!

Meat is often so hard that it cannot be eaten, save by enduring pain caused by indigestion. One patient, for whom 10s. a week is paid, feels this want of nourishment very keenly, and anxiously asks, "How can I get strong enough for my confinement in two months time?" And yet she is handicapped, apparently, by having no one at home to nurse her, and it is essential that she should do no active work.

The cleanliness and orderliness of the ward, with the kindness of the nurses, leaves nothing to be desired in these respects. What a pity, then, that the whole comfort and intention of the infirmary, with the progress towards recovery of the patients, should be marred and even destroyed by the want of well-cooked food and other suitable nourishment, such as milk, etc.! Which of the Guardians would like to fast from 5 p.m. till the next morning, and they do not have the ravage of disease to battle with?

I wish to say that I went to the infirmary without the slightest idea that I should arrive at a meal-time, which disclosed to me the poverty of the food and led up to the disclosures of the rest, for, at the time, our patient had half a slice of dry bread on her plate and the tea (?) in her cup.

The letter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Board, and we notice with pleasure that several guardians are in a mood for reform, as, owing to constant complaints, they consider "they have covered enough things up already." Mrs. Seel remarked "that the Board should take the blame if they deserved it; and they did deserve it, because she had brought forward these things time after time, and had only been laughed and sneered at for her pains."

When interviewed by the Board, the Superintendent Nurse, who is responsible for the serving of the food, was apparently somewhat hardened to "grumbles," and objected to the interference of lady visitors to the infirmary.

The truth is, from information we have received, this infirmary requires thoroughly overhauling, and the care and comfort of the unfortunate patients should be organised on a more humane system. We advise the Chairman of the Board to see that it is done.

A correspondent sends us the following touching little story:—"It was visiting day at hospital, and Mabel, aged 6, was taken by her mother to see her brother Harry, who had been ill for a very long time with chest trouble. Harry was very careful in carrying out as far as he was able the doctor's injunctions, one of which was that he should not kiss his young sister. Mabel was passionately fond of Harry, and greatly resented the with-

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