

We do not doubt that Mr. Lobb will stick to his guns, and give the required evidence. The wine and liquor is at present supplied for the Guardians' dinner by the chairman of the House Committee, Mr. F. Bennett, a city publican. Whatever the Guardians order is sent in. Mr. Ramsbottom, the master of the Workhouse, takes charge of it, and is allowed to charge a profit. Even if there were no profit, Mr. Ramsbottom is acting illegally in supplying the liquor at all. It is against Excise laws, and is outside the duties of workhouse master.

At the last meeting of the Guardians Mr. Lobb proposed the following resolution:—"That it be referred to the Finance Committee to consider and report what, if any, economy can be effected, either in limiting the number of Guardians who are to attend the above-named committees or the amount of money allowance as expenses."

We cordially agree with Mr. Lobb's remark that "he thought it was now quite time the matter should be dealt with officially by the Guardians themselves." He stated that in visiting the two houses the Guardians had received £1,191 for expenses and refreshments. He further said that he had in his hand an interesting return, which he would reserve for another occasion, giving the actual amount received by individual Guardians for committee expenses during the past two years. Sundry Guardians clamoured for the document to be read, but Mr. Lobb "declined to read the statement, even if the vote of the meeting required it." Finally, order was restored, and Mr. Lobb returned to his point, which was the elimination from the Agenda of the Rule which allowed any Guardian to attend the Rota. Mr. Lobb was satisfied that if this were done, the expenditure of the Board would be reduced. "He had found that very often after other committees, members would make up little parties amongst themselves and adjourn to Homerton or Bow."

After some other home truths from Mr. Lobb, Dr. Greatrex moved that "Mr. Lobb be no longer heard, and that the Board proceed with the next business. He did not believe a word Mr. Lobb said."

There is something familiar to us in this method of stifling the unpleasant exposure of abuses. Can it be that Dr. Greatrex is a member of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and has adopted the tactics of the governing body? It would be interesting to know.

Mr. Lobb stated that in spite of the offensive and abusive opposition, he would continue his action.

We are glad to observe that the St. James's Vestry have passed a resolution appointing a deputation to wait on the Home Secretary, with the view of getting the law relating to disorderly houses made applicable to so-called "massage" establishments.

Items of Interest.

PROFESSOR DUSSAUD, of the University of Geneva, has invented an apparatus to enable the deaf to hear. The microphonograph which he has just issued to the world magnifies the human voice in the same way as a lens magnifies a picture. It is simply (says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent) a telephone connected electrically with a phonograph, but a far more sensitive phonograph than Edison's ordinary model. There is, of course, an electric battery, sulphate of mercury being used, and from one cell to sixty cells according to the degree of deafness of the person. Of course, the apparatus is useless in case of absolute deafness, but fortunately such an infirmity is far rarer than is suspected. Ninety-five per cent. of so-called stone-deaf persons can be made to hear and understand by means of Professor Dussaud's invention. Professor Dussaud is preparing for the 1900 Exhibition an apparatus which will enable 10,000 people, who may be all deaf, to follow a lecture.

The Speaker has given permission to the young Italian inventor, Professor Marconi, who has discovered what is described as a system of telegraphing without connecting wires, to exhibit two of his marvellous instruments at the House; and we understand that a little later on they will be placed one at each end of the terrace, where they should certainly prove an enormous attraction.

The Berlin correspondent of the *British Medical Journal* tells the following sensational story:—A Hamburg practitioner was consulted by a young married lady, who complained of terrible hallucinations, driving her to suicide. Beyond the hallucinations complained of, there seemed nothing to indicate mental disease; but a sudden light dawned on Dr. D., when, in the course of further conversation, his patient told him two facts—one that her husband had lately insured her life for a large sum, and the second that he was fond of making hypnotic experiments. Dr. D. found it easy to hypnotise his patient, but met with obstinate resistance when he commanded her to divulge what had been suggested to her to do. He at last overcame the resistance of his patient, who acknowledged that her husband had commanded her to commit suicide after two months, and to keep his command secret from everyone. The insurance company is one that pays even in cases of suicide, if the suicide be committed more than two months after insurance.

There is to be an X-Ray Society, with Dr. David Walsh, of the Western Skin Hospital, as Hon. Secretary, for studying and experimenting with X rays.

The *Lokalanzeiger* states that Professor Koch will, within the next few weeks, publish the result of his studies of the bacillus of rinderpest.

Messrs. Cadbury Brothers, of Bournville, have purchased three cocoa estates in the West Indies, and are negotiating for a fourth. The estates are in the healthiest part of Trinidad, 1,000 feet above sea level, in the centre of the district in which the finest cocoa is grown.

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