

addressed to 8, Great Marylebone Street, and intended for his Co-operation, were opened and made use of by the persons who had succeeded him in the occupation of the premises.

In consequence of complaints made by Mr. Walshe, inquiries were made at 8, Great Marylebone Street, and a letter from Dr. Gordon Staples seized, Mr. Walshe contending that it was meant for him. In the meantime the plaintiff had been despatched to Dr. Gordon Staples at Twyford, and in consequence of information which reached the Twyford police, he was arrested there on the charge of having stolen a letter. The case brought forward by the plaintiff was that the defendant had slandered him by saying he had stolen the letter and by means of it had obtained employment intended for the defendant. The libel complained of consisted of 1,000 circulars distributed among the medical profession by the defendant, as follows:—

Male Nurses' (Temperance) Co-operation,
10, Thayer Street, Manchester Square.
Caution.

Sir,—You are earnestly requested to note our change of address, as some unscrupulous persons have obtained possession of our former premises, 8, Great Marylebone Street, for the purpose of trading on our reputation. We find it necessary to issue this warning as complaints have reached us that these persons have obtained entrance to houses on account of their supposed connection with this and other institutions, and articles of value have afterwards been missing.

Those who have had practical experience of the methods made use of by the management of one Nursing Co-operation to annex the connection, and to trade upon the reputation made by another, will sympathise with Mr. Walshe in the difficulties with which he has evidently had to contend.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

Lord Lister was in the chair at the yearly festival dinner in aid of the funds of King's College Hospital on Monday night at the Hotel Métropole, and was supported by many friends of the institution. After proposing the loyal toasts, the chairman gave that of "Prosperity to King's College Hospital," and in doing so said it pleased him to know that the hospital was never in a better position to discharge its duties in alleviating suffering than it was at the present time. This hospital has suffered much in the past from lack of funds, and the work of both the medical and nursing staffs has been justly held in such high estimation that this statement must give general satisfaction.

Heart Disease.

By BEDFORD FENWICK, M.D.,

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THE chief fact for nurses to remember is that those patients, suffering from acute valvular disease of the heart, who are ordered to remain in bed, should be kept absolutely at rest. If there be any difficulty of breathing, as often happens, especially if the left side of the heart be much affected, the patient will generally obtain most relief if propped up with pillows. But this should be done in such a manner as not to entail any exertion on his part, and therefore the pillows should be placed on the fashion of an inclined plane, so as to completely support the back and head. In any case, the nurse will probably be instructed to prevent him from making any exertion on his own behalf. Such a case as the following, for example, teaches a lesson which cannot be too frequently impressed upon those entrusted with the care of such patients. A hospital patient suffering from disease of the aortic valves was directed by a probationer to get up in order that his bed might be made, and for this purpose he was assisted into an ordinary chair at the bedside. In a minute or two, he complained of feeling faint, and some stimulant was given to him, which seemed to revive him for the moment, but the faintness almost immediately returned, and, as he was being hurriedly assisted back to bed, he fell forward and died.

It is in cases of aortic disease that this liability to sudden death is most marked—the explanation being very simple. The blood pumped out from the left ventricle into the aorta should pass onwards into the general circulatory system. But when the aortic valves are "insufficient," and do not properly close their orifice, the contraction of the artery, instead of closing the valves by the back-pressure of the blood, forces part of the current back again into the ventricle; and any over-exertion on the patient's part may make this back-flow so strong as to distend the cavity, and, for the moment, paralyse the heart's action, with the result that sudden death occurs. So, it is a fact which cannot be too seriously emphasised that a patient suffering from aortic disease requires the greatest care and attention, and, above all, absolute rest from any strain or over-exertion of either mind or body. Even when the acute

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