

on the little water which could be obtained from the surface water well. As the patients in the infirmary number 600, the position is a serious one. The guardians passed a strong resolution expressing the opinion that the present condition of things constitutes "a very grave charge against the East London Waterworks' Company." A resolution, expressing the "grave apprehension" felt by the Metropolitan Asylums' Board, was also passed on Saturday last, and the Board were of opinion that "every effort should be made to provide an adequate supply as soon as possible, and that some provision should be made to prevent the recurrence of a short supply in future."

There can be no doubt as to the propriety of these resolutions, and while we sympathise with the Guardians and the nursing staff of the Mile End Infirmary, we cannot but hope that the inconvenience and danger to which they are subjected may have beneficial results. Abuses are apt to flourish until some one of importance suffers, and then there is some hope of their being remedied. In our opinion, the deficiency of the East End water supply is scandalous. We wonder how long the West End would submit to a daily three hours' supply of water, more especially if the condition of shortened supply seemed likely to be an annual one. How many inhabitants of the West End would pay water-rates under such conditions?

#### A MODICUM OF JUSTICE FOR TOMMY ATKINS.

THE *Times of India* (August 2nd) has a leading article upon "The Military Surgeon of the Future," which has elicited some comments in the *British Medical Journal*. Says the latter, "The writer very truly says 'There is only one military hospital, namely Netley, which is equipped on a scale conformable to modern scientific requirements. In the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, and the Herbert, Woolwich, a lame attempt is being made in this direction. In India there is no military hospital which in equipment can compare with the large civil hospitals in Bombay or elsewhere; on the contrary, the equipment in all of them is not only decades behind the age, but a policy of niggardliness, even in what little is supplied, is much in evidence.'" The writer of the article goes on to urge that a large military hospital shall be established for each command in India—the Punjab, Bengal, Madras, and Bombay—and that each hospital

shall be equipped up to modern scientific requirements. Medical officers might then be attached to these schools for instruction, and also the sick soldier would have the same advantages as his civilian brother, a modicum of justice for Tommy Atkins, to which he may surely reasonably consider himself entitled.

#### LIEUTENANT ANITA NEWCOMBE MCGEE, M.D.

ONCE again, an American nurse has received public recognition of her worth, and nurses will feel that the honour done to Dr. McGee, primarily the reward of her services, is an honour also to the professions to which she belongs. Dr. Anita Newcombe McGee, nurse and doctor, of whose work in connection with the Hispano-American War we gave some account in a recent issue, has been given the rank of Acting Assistant-Surgeon in the American Army, with the title and pay of a lieutenant. America seems inspired with more liberal views as to womankind than do the older European countries, but perhaps the reason for this lies also with the women, who possess the independence characteristic of their nation, rather than the instincts of the slave which are so often found in the women of European nations. Dr. McGee will, when wearing the uniform of her rank, use the regulation, cloth, and the fatigue jacket, with its proper shoulder-straps, but the rest of the suit will be wholly feminine.

#### WAITING AT HOSPITALS.

THE poor are a long suffering class, and, as a rule, they appreciate the attention which they receive in the out-patient departments of our hospitals, and say little about the length of time which they are kept waiting, but, there is no doubt that they have a very real grievance on this count, and one which they ought not to be called upon systematically to endure. In times of emergency, it is doubtless necessary to keep out-patients waiting sometimes, but that, day after day, they should be obliged to wait from four to six hours, as is stated to be the case, is a serious reflection upon the management of the out-patient departments of our hospitals. To the poor, loss of time means loss of money, and it is unfair that they should be required to give it up for want of better arrangements in our public institutions. Probably the Governors of Hospitals have not had this matter brought prominently before them, but we feel sure that, once realised, they will take steps to rectify it.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)