

- "Memorials. Part II. Personal and Political, 1865—1895." By Roundell Palmer, Earl of Selborne, Lord High Chancellor.
- "The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll." By Stuart Dodgson Collingwood.
- "A Short History of the United States." By Justin Huntly McCarthy.
- "Ellen Terry and Her Impersonations." An Appreciation. By Charles Hiatt.
- "Afterwards, and Other Stories." By Ian Maclaren.
- "Rabbi Saunderson." By Ian Maclaren.
- "Elizabeth and her German Garden."
- "Observations of a Ranch-woman in New Mexico." By Edith M. Nicholl.

### Coming Events.

*December 12th.*—Princess Louise attends a meeting in aid of the funds of the Victoria Hospital for Children, Chelsea. Grosvenor House, 12.

The Duke of Cambridge opens the Victoria Hospital at Kingston.

Festival Dinner at the Hôtel Métropole, in aid of the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead. H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge will preside.

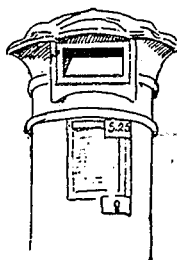
*December 13th.*—Princess Henry of Battenberg opens a Three Days' Bazaar at Reading in aid of the Church of England Homes for Waifs and Strays.

*December 14th.*—A Sessional Meeting of the Sanitary Institute at the Parkes Museum, Margaret Street, at 8 p.m., when a discussion will be opened on "Some Prevalent Fallacies in Vital Statistics," by Dr. Edward F. Willoughby, D.P.H. London and Camb. The Chair will be taken by Professor W. H. Corfield, M.A., M.D. Oxon., F.R.C.P. Lond.

*December 17th.*—The Duchess of Sutherland presides at a meeting of the Committee formed to Promote a Bazaar in June, 1899, in aid of Charing Cross Hospital Special Appeal Fund. Stafford House, 3.30.

### Letters to the Editor.

NOTES, QUERIES. &c.



*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

#### "HIGH-HANDED ACTION."

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Under an article headed as above you write that all humane persons will heartily endorse a censure of a jury on the action of Mr. Roberts, the house governor of the London Hospital, in dismissing a man from the hospital, depositing on the pavement

without making any arrangements, resulting in his death in two days.

The facts are very different, but I need not trouble your readers with them all. Mr. Roberts was ill in bed with iritis. The temper and good taste of this coroner's jury may be gathered from the remark of one of them. "I daresay! a very convenient illness." If Mr. Roberts had been well, this would not have happened.

But shortly may I say with full knowledge of the facts, that arrangements were made with the police (they failed through a misunderstanding), that the man was filthily indecent in word and action, that we had no isolation room vacant, that he showed no signs whatever of softening of the brain, and could control his words and actions, and did so when the house physician was present, that he was not helpless, so no "depositing" on the pavement was necessary, and lastly that he did not die two days after he was discharged, as you report, but nine days afterwards, and that his death had nothing whatever to do with his being turned out,

Yours, etc.,  
SYDNEY HOLLAND.

44, Bryanston Square, W.  
December 2nd, 1898.

[We are pleased to insert Mr. Sydney Holland's letter, in reference to our report of the unfortunate circumstances sworn to at an inquiry held by the coroner at Whitechapel Infirmary, concerning the death of Edwin John McGarth, and as full reports of the circumstances have appeared in the press, we need not recapitulate them. The chief facts remain that a sick man was discharged from the London Hospital by the House Governor, helped by a porter outside the gates, and there remained on the pavement until removed by the police to the Whitechapel Infirmary, where he died nine days (not two days as we were informed) later, the autopsy proving that he had softening of the brain, and that he was not therefore in the opinion of the medical superintendent accountable for his actions.

Now, we are of opinion that if the system for the discharge of patients by the House-Governor at the London Hospital was good, no "mistake" could occur. First of all, we have a sick man, behaving disgustingly before women nurses, and we can assert, after ten years personal experience of the sick poor in hospitals (nearly two years of which time was spent as a Sister at the London Hospital) *that we have never heard of a sane patient acting or speaking in an indecent manner before a nurse*, and that the fact of a male patient doing so would at once arouse the suspicion of an experienced doctor or nurse, that such a patient was not altogether accountable for his actions. No such suspicion seems to have occurred to the House Physician or House Governor at the London Hospital, and as far as we can gather, none of the visiting physicians were consulted about the man's conduct.

(2) Granting that the patient was an undesirable inmate of a general ward—and in this case that will be unanimously conceded—and that there was no facility for isolating him, it cannot be denied that arrangements should have been made for his reception elsewhere, and that it was the duty of the House Governor—or his representative—to have made proper arrangements for the man's removal. Under no circumstances can it be justifiable for

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