

commercial point of view, by stating that Germany, Holland, and Belgium had already sent liberal contributions. Lord Lister, in responding to the toast, said that the new school had the most cordial sympathy of Mr. Chamberlain.

A MATTER OF JUSTICE.

WE heartily endorse the line of action maintained by Canon Hobson at a meeting of the Exeter Board of Guardians in relation to a letter of complaint from a nurse. The nurse stated that the first intimation that she had of charges made against her to the Board was in an Exeter paper, from which she learnt that some members of the Board advocated her immediate dismissal. Canon Hobson enquired whether Mrs. Beal, who made the charges against the nurse, first acquainted her with her intention of making a complaint to the Board, and receiving a reply in the negative, said that it was a most un-English procedure not to give the person against whom charges were made a chance to defend herself. A resolution was moved that the nurse's letter lie on the table, whereupon Canon Hobson said, even if he stood in a minority of one, he should still think it most unfair to the nurse. For all they knew the charges might be entirely groundless. An amendment to the resolution was moved to the effect that the nurse be granted a right to come before the Board and give an explanation, but was lost by thirteen votes to nine. It is surely a matter of elementary justice that an accused person shall not be condemned unheard.

DIRT AND DISEASE.

It is a well-established fact that the great enemy of disease is cleanliness, the great factor in the spread of disease is dirt, and in no instance has this been more strikingly proved than by the experiments of Dr. Petri with regard to the presence of bacilli in German railway carriages. Ninety-one animals were inoculated with the tubercle sputum, and of these thirty per cent. died in the month. Poor animals! Surely the presence and the danger of the tubercle bacillus in railway carriages might have been demonstrated without such a holocaust! Men—some men—are cruel creatures, and the advance of science serves as a reason for the unjustifiable infliction of much unnecessary pain. Nevertheless the lesson is plain: dirty habits in railway carriages, as in

all other places, are dangerous to the public health, and as such should be prevented by law, and the male sex—for it is the male sex exclusively which indulges in this filthy habit—should be prohibited from expectorating in public places. Furthermore, the lesson is plain that great cleanliness is necessary on the part of the railway companies, if railway travelling is not to become dangerous to the public, and we would suggest that to attain this end, the employment of women to clean the carriages is expedient, and that their condition would, if this suggestion be adopted, be much more satisfactory than after a perfunctory mopping out by the "mere male." Women are proving, all along the line, that their strong point is thoroughness, and attention to detail, and nowhere is this more evident than in what is admittedly woman's domain, that of house cleaning.

PHOSSY JAW.

A LADY who has been acting as a Commissioner for the Women's Trade Union League, on the subject of "Phossy Jaw," contributes to the quarterly report of the League an article on this subject, and enquires "What amount of suffering inflicted by phossy jaw would be considered necessary by the Government before taking action?"

It is noteworthy with regard to this terrible disease, that the "phos" does not always kill. The victim may live for many years, frightfully disfigured, and subject to loathsome discharges. Sometimes, however, the illnesses are brief, and death comes quickly, and again there are cases where, in necrosis of the upper jaw, the disease creeps up, and the patients suffer terrible agony. The instances given by the Commissioner which came under her own observation are sufficiently sickening. For example, one girl had had so much of the upper jaw removed that she could not speak plainly, and eating was a matter of difficulty. A man of 36 had been at work for twelve or thirteen years when the disease appeared. Nineteen teeth were drawn at one time, and five incisions were made, with the result that the gums have receded from the bone, which appears like that of a skull, with the empty sockets of the teeth exposed.

But why multiply cases? Surely it is abundantly proved, that, in the interests of humanity, this ghastly work must be prohibited by law. English people pride themselves on their humanity. Is it all a mere sham?

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