

that institution. His arm was bound up in splints, and he was under the influence of alcohol but not drunk. On removing the splints, he found a fracture of the left arm, which bled profusely. The man was put to bed, and was seized with a violent attack of delirium tremens. He died on the evening of Sunday (the fourth day after the accident), of delirium tremens following fracture of the arm. The Coroner said the charge against the hospital was a serious one, and adjourned the inquest in order that the authorities of St. Mary's Hospital might be represented.

At the adjourned inquest the man Marks repeated his evidence. The casualty porter at St. Mary's Hospital also gave evidence, and said that the institution was closed between July 8th and September 8th, and his "instructions were not to take any fresh cases in that were not urgent." Are we to understand that the admissions at St. Mary's Hospital are made by the casualty porter, and that the decision as to which cases are urgent rests with him?

Dr. A. G. Wilson gave evidence that he saw the man on his arrival, and told the men who were with him that the hospital was closed, and that he could not be taken in. At four o'clock he told the man he could go home, and asked him to return at eight. He would have treated deceased as an out-patient if the hospital had been open, and he adopted everything possible in the way of treatment.

The hospital authorities were exonerated from blame by the jury in a rider to their verdict. We fully acknowledge that the man was promptly treated by the house surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital, but this does not alter the fact that this large hospital is closed to the sick poor for one-sixth of the whole year. It is not unreasonable to suppose that during this time cases are taken to the hospital which cannot be treated as out-patients, in which cases real hardship is occasioned. The distance from St. Mary's to the Middlesex Hospital is considerable, and in the case of a bad accident the additional journey must be harmful, if not fatal. And supposing (a not unlikely contingency) that when such a case arrives at Middlesex Hospital that institution is found to be closed also, is the patient to "move on" until he finds a hospital which is not closed? We are of opinion that the public, who support the hospitals, would do well to insist that at least in the twelve London hospitals with medical schools some beds should be available all the year round for the reception of accident cases.

## Annotations.

### BRITISH PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

THE Local Government Board is taking active measures to prevent the introduction of bubonic plague into this country. The epidemic clauses of the special Cholera Act, of 1896, will be put into force with regard to any port abroad likely to be infected sending ships to England. Every port sanitary authority in England and Wales has received notice to strictly attend to that Act, and the chief medical inspectors of the Local Government Board are visiting the ports with the object of explaining that precautions must at once be taken. Under the above-mentioned Act, officers of custom have power to detain any ship on its arrival from foreign ports, and to prevent anyone landing. Places are to be fixed where such ships shall be moored, and infected persons on board, who cannot be removed, will be subject to the control of the medical officer of health. In the event of deaths occurring, the bodies must, if the medical officer considers it advisable, be buried at sea.

### THE HOLIDAYS.

So many nurses are now enjoying, or about to enjoy, a well earned holiday after an arduous year's work, that some remarks on the subject in these columns seem most appropriate. Where to go—how to make the most of the brief annual outing, as regards enjoyment and profit, is a matter of importance. The first desideratum to secure is a real rest, for at the end of eleven months of work, the burden of life presses heavily upon most of us, we are physically and mentally weary, and work is an effort, a duty which we force ourselves to perform, not the keen pleasure which it ordinarily is to us. We feel probably as if we had done almost our share, and had earned the right to withdraw from a life of activity and bury ourselves in delicious solitude for the future. Rest at present at least we must have, and so, one finds it in a gay watering place, another by crossing the channel and getting right away from the usual life into new environments, while a third holds (and who shall say that she is wrong?) that there is nothing so lovely outside our own islands as is to be found within them, and elects to bury herself in the country, while perhaps at the same time renewing old friendships, or cementing new ones, and accepting the kindly

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