

THE "HOSPITAL" NEWSPAPER.

A fact commented on by Mr. Jeffery, with considerable surprise, but which, we imagine, will surprise few members of the nursing profession, was that the *Hospital* newspaper presented an absolutely one-sided view of what had occurred at the last meeting, and that the reporter of that paper arrived at the Infirmary at four or five o'clock on the day before the Board day, as the guest of the Matron, and remained until six or seven o'clock on the next day. To quote the *West London Press* :—

"Mr. Jeffery said he was perfectly surprised at the exertions made by the Matron and her supporters in this matter. They stuck at little in their attempt to obscure the real facts. At the last meeting the members noticed that they were favoured with the presence of a lady reporter—a quite unusual thing. Well, Mr. Jeffery had since found that the lady represented the *Hospital*, a paper which subsequently presented an absolutely one-sided view of what had occurred at the last meeting. The *Hospital* put in the Matron's letter, and all said in favour of her, but carefully excluded the letter of Dr. Horn in answer. This was carrying things very far, and it only showed the lengths to which the friends of the Matron were prepared to go. But Mr. Jeffery knew even more about the lady reporter. He found that she arrived at the Infirmary on the Tuesday prior to the Board day, and remained a guest of the Matron till after the meeting of the Guardians. They thus had the Press actually staying on the premises for the Matron's defence. However, they all knew the truth of the case, and it did not matter much."

Those who know the reputation which the *Hospital* has gained in the journalistic world for deliberate misrepresentation will, of course, not share Mr. Jeffery's surprise at its proceedings on the present occasion.

QUITE GILBERTIAN.

So the Chelsea Guardians have decided that they are sick of "L'Affaire Morgan," that they want no more letters from either the Doctor or the Matron on the subject, and that they will let the matter drop, although the statements made by Dr. Moore and Dr. Horn have had an unqualified contradiction from the Matron and the nurse, which remains unanswered.

The whole proceedings might have been taken from a Gilbertian farce. Guardians who so little appreciate their responsibilities that they consider it a "trivial" matter if the lives of the poor in their Infirmary are needlessly imperilled; who

first struggle to "hush up" a scandal, which throws a lurid light on the manner in which their Infirmary is conducted; and then, for two months, squabble how much or how little inquiry shall be made; and who, when they have finally decided that an inquiry is essential, suddenly twist round and decide to have no inquiry at all.

Most people will laugh consumedly at such Gilbertian Guardianship. But professional people see the tragic elements in the farce. It is the lives of the poor which are being played with. If a Matron is permitted to sneer publicly at the medical treatment of the patients, and at the inexperience of her medical officers, and to give the lie direct to their statements, there is no need to explain to any professional person the disorganization which must follow such disloyalty, and such publicly expressed contempt.

Appointments.

LADY SUPERINTENDENT.

MISS ANNIE L. COX has been appointed Lady Superintendent of the Monsall Fever Hospital. Miss Cox was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, and for the last eight years has held the position of Lady Superintendent of the Royal Infirmary, Hull.

SISTERS.

MISS J. C. CHILD has been appointed Sister at the Hospital, Kimberley, South Africa. Miss Child was trained at St. Thomas' Hospital, and subsequently held the position of Sister at the Sussex County Hospital. After some experience of private nursing in London and Brighton she was appointed Matron of the Victoria Hospital, Lewes, a position which she held for two years. Since 1895 she has been a member of the Registered Nurses' Society, and was one of the Sisters selected for service in Greece during the Græco-Turkish War. Miss Child has this year been honoured by the award of the Commemorative Medal of the Red Cross, as well as a Diploma, by the Queen of the Hellenes, for the services she rendered to the sick and wounded at that time.

MISS HELEN H. BAIRD, who was appointed Nursing Sister in the Indian Army Nursing Service in June last, was trained, and subsequently held the position of Staff Nurse at St. George's Hospital, London. She obtained her midwifery experience under the District Nursing Association at Llanelly, South Wales. Miss Baird has not been engaged in nursing the plague in common with the other recently appointed Indian Nursing Sisters.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)