

nobody ain't goin' to 'ave that clock," exclaimed John, with rising indignation.

"Well, yes! but you might change your mind—plenty folks do when they gets to your age." She adopted a conciliatory tone.

"If Peggy was to get 'andlin' that clock she'd 'ave it hupset in three minutes. There 'ud be no gettin' it to work again. Clocks gets humours like folks."

He smiled knowingly at her.

"There you go," she said, with assumed admiration; "always your little bit of a joke."

"P'raps when you 'ear wot I've got to say, you'll un'erstand how no one can't 'ave a chanst to 'ave it," went on the old man, with a twinkle in his weak blue eyes.

"Well, fire ahead, an' don't get long-winded," she remarked.

"Well! that 'ere clock 's goin' to be buried with me—d'ye 'ear?"

"Yes, I 'ear!" she said, with an ill-concealed sneer.

"You see, it struck me suddint-like that supposin' I was buried alive, an' was to wake up, it would be kind o' comfortin' to know the time," he said, quietly.

## The Metropolitan Asylums Board.

Several interesting points were brought up at the last meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. It was agreed that now that it was unlawful for public vehicles to be used for the conveyance of measles, owing to the action of the London County Council in declaring measles a dangerous infectious disease, the Board would, when necessary, allow the use of their ambulances for these cases free of charge. Usually a charge of 5s. for the hire of the ambulance has been made, and in the case of the removal of children from the out-patient department of hospitals, when the parents were unable to pay, in many instances the hospital authorities have paid the charge. They have, however, submitted that it should not be thrown upon them.

A letter of complaint from the father of a patient alleging premature discharge and consequent spread of scarlet fever among other members of his family, and claiming compensation, was also dealt with. It was pointed out that the rule of the Board was for no patient to be discharged until the medical superintendent was of opinion that the patient might leave the hospital without risk of conveying infection or contagion, and it was not until this opinion had been formed that the boy had been discharged. As a writ had been served on the Board's solicitors claiming damages for negligence, the Hospitals Committee were authorised to defend the action.

## Reflections.



AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—The Charity Commissioners have issued copies of a scheme which they propose to establish for the regulation of a paying patients' department of St. Thomas's Hospital. It is provided that the Governors may set apart, for not more than forty patients, two floors in a building intended to be used primarily as a home for nurses which is about to be erected within the precincts of the hospital. The daily rate of payment is to be not less than 8s.

AT THE ROYAL WATERLOO HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN.—The Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, Waterloo Bridge Road, S.E., founded in the reign of George III., is now being rebuilt, reorganised, and enlarged, at a cost of over £50,000. To enable the out-patient department to be carried on, the new buildings are being erected in three sections. The walls of the first portion have reached their highest point; towering over the surrounding buildings, they can easily be seen from the north side of the river. It is hoped that early next year this portion may be thrown open. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Albany will lay the memorial stone at 3 p.m. on the 26th inst., and will be received by the Lord Mayor (president of the hospital) and Sheriffs in state.

AT THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.—Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg has consented to unveil the memorial tablet to the late Emperor and Empress Frederick which is being erected at the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road. The ceremony is to take place on November 28th.

BRITISH LYING-IN HOSPITAL, ENDELL STREET.—The Princess of Wales has consented to become Patron of this hospital.

AT THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL.—The St. Francis Hospital for Infants, Denning Road, Hampstead Heath, will in future be known as the Infants' Hospital. The result of the "at home" given by Mrs. Fletcher at Merlewood, Virginia Water, was £457.

AT THE KING'S SANATORIUM.—Apropos of the coming ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the King's Sanatorium, some doubters have pointed to the entire failure of sanatoria to cure in the majority of cases of phthisis. But it is an ill wind that blows nobody any good, and the real value of sanatoria has only just been pointed out by the Medical Officer of Health for Brighton, Dr. Newsholme. He has proved that the mere segregation of a patient during the latter end—which is the infectious period—of his illness saves not his life, indeed, but those of his friends and neighbours, whom he would otherwise have infected.

AT THE LEICESTER INFIRMARY.—It is imperative that more money should be provided to carry on the increasing work of this infirmary. The new wing which has been opened has increased expenditure, and every necessary addition made has the same effect. We agree with the Chairman that it would be a disaster and a disgrace to the wealthy county and town of

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