

WAITING THEIR CALL TO REST.

Some of our readers may not be acquainted with an institution that is doing an excellent and charitable work—namely, the Hostel of God, situated on Clapham Common. It exists for the care of the dying, and is managed by the religious order of St. Margaret's Sisterhood, East Grinstead. The Hostel is located in one of the many beautiful houses that are to be found on the north side of Clapham Common. It is detached, double fronted, and possesses a very charming old garden the lawn of which is shaded by cedar, copper beech, and tulip trees. In this pleasant and restful spot the patients lie when they are able, on long chairs and couches, or in an open fronted shed when the weather is bad. In another part of the garden stands the little mortuary at the back of which is a beautiful carved stone representation of the Virgin Mother embracing the body of her dead Lord.

The interior of the house shows a wide hall and very fine oak staircase and balustrade.

The accommodation is for twenty-seven patients. The wards are coloured in a pretty shade of blue washable distemper, and the women's beds have spotless white curtains at the head which secures a certain amount of privacy. They are kept gay with flowers, and the south aspect secures the necessary sunshine and brightness.

The men's ward has recently had a bay added to it in memory of Dr. Mackintosh who was the first doctor in attendance at the Hostel. This addition not only provides for more beds, but also gives more light and air to the ward.

There is one single and one double bedded room.

Everything that is humanly possible is done at the Hostel, both for the souls and bodies of these, "who to the margin come, waiting their call to rest."

There is a beautiful little chapel, and the Hostel has its own chaplain who can be summoned at any moment to minister to those *in extremis*.

The nursing is done by the religious Sisters who are also trained nurses, and they are assisted by probationers. The Hostel is entirely free, no payment of any sort is asked, but donations from the friends of the patients are of course welcomed if they feel disposed to give. It is supported by voluntary contributions. As may be imagined, the Hostel has a considerable waiting list.

Such a good work as this is deserving indeed of the support of the charitable, and it is an example which benefactors might well copy, as we believe Homes in existence for this purpose are very few and far between.

Mr. Moss, head porter of the Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital has been made a Governor of that Institution. He has served it faithfully and well, and has won deserved popularity with the thousands of patients who have attended it during his term of office. For many years he has had the ambition to become a Governor, and he has collected and handed over to the authorities a sum exceeding £50.

LEGAL MATTERS.

THE LABEL ON THE BOTTLE.

Several lessons, which cannot be too emphatically emphasised arise out of a mistake which occurred recently at the Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards, which resulted in the death of two patients.

The facts as elicited at the inquest, and reported in the *Hastings and St. Leonards Observer* are:—

Two patients attended at the Buchanan Hospital, St. Leonards, on July 30th, and were X-rayed. The first patient was a man of 77 who had been under the care of Dr. James Lee (the surgeon to the Buchanan Hospital), for over a month. He formed the opinion that an X-ray photograph should be taken, and on July 30th directed the Sister-in-Charge of the X-ray room at the hospital to give a bismuth meal for the purposes of the X-ray.

THE DANGER OF IGNORANCE.

The Sister deposed that she took the bottle (produced) from the cupboard, weighed out four ounces, and added malted milk. That was the first time the bottle had been used. She did not notice that it did not bear a label "bismuth," but "barii carbonate." Even if she had she would have used it, because she did not know the difference.

Replying to the solicitor representing Miss Constance M. Locke, the dispenser, she said that she remembered a conversation with her as to the substitution of barium sulphate for bismuth. She asked Miss Locke to order the former, but she said she could not do so unless she had permission. Later Miss Locke said she had had a conversation with the representative of the British Drug House, who said that barii sulphate was used largely, and she had ordered a bottle. About a week later she brought the bottle (produced) into the X-ray room for the witness to see.

THE PRICE OF CHEAPNESS.

The dispenser gave evidence as to ordering the barium, as it was cheaper than bismuth. The list was signed by Dr. Ethel Lee, and she also went over it with the representative of the British Drug House who made no comment on it. She had no knowledge of these compounds of barium, which were rather out of the line of an ordinary chemist. She must have noticed in the catalogue, that it was sulphate which was marked for X-ray diagnosis and not carbonate.

DEATH FROM POISONING.

Dr. James Lee deposed to finding the deceased very ill on the afternoon the photograph had been taken, and to calling in Dr. Prichard in consultation. They decided that the only chance of saving his life was an operation, and this was begun at St. Elizabeth's Nursing Home. The patient died shortly after the operation had commenced. He was then prepared to certify

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)