

the allegation that nurses returned to work behind time? Was the porter's book inspected, and its accuracy ascertained?

In regard to the question of bedsores, did not the explanation strike one as rather lame? Moreover, it was an amazing thing for a medical man to say that bedsores cannot be avoided (Report of Dr. J. L. Perceval, Assistant Medical Officer: "A certain number of bedsores are unavoidable."). If a patient in a London Hospital developed a bed sore it would be considered a scandal.

With regard to the fact that the Inspector found the backs of patients with bedsores unprotected by water pillows, the Committee reported that sufficient water pillows were in stock, but, through some misunderstanding, they were not in the wards. Who were the officers responsible? Why was it not known where they were? Was that thing going to be passed over; was nobody to be censured?

Miss Wamsley might have exaggerated, but the medical officer stated that several backs had become irritated by the very rough material used for draw sheets, possibly rendered worse by the chemicals used in cleansing them. Surely that was negligent. Was it necessary for an Inspector to come down to point out such conditions?

He knew the Report would be accepted, although it said everything possible for the nurses and everything possible against the Inspector, but it would serve one useful purpose if it had the effect of putting a little more energy into rectifying the conditions complained of.

COMPLAINTS NOT "COMPARATIVELY SLIGHT."

Miss Michael moved the deletion of paragraph 11 on page 8 of the Agenda. "From the above it will be seen that the comparatively slight complaints are in reference to four wards out of a total of twenty-three wards now in use." She objected to the words "comparatively slight complaints." They could not say that any of the complaints made by the Inspector were slight.

She was glad that attention had at last been called to the rough-dried uncomfortable draw sheets. It was a pity for the Committee, or for members of the staff, to be so touchy as to any criticism whatever.

Another Guardian drew attention to the fact that one most important thing had been left out, "the great scandal of the dilution of the milk."

The Chairman said that would come up at the meeting of the Infirmary Committee on the following Monday. The speaker said he was there to stop robbery, and the Chairman ruled him out of order.

Mr. Finnimore, Chairman of the Infirmary Committee, here corroborated the Chairman's statement that the Infirmary Committee were investigating this matter.

The Chairman: "I've told him he's out of order, but he has got out what he wants."

Mr. Reed said that the Inspector was one of those "know nothings." What did they know? The dinner hour was twelve o'clock,

and the Inspector came round at 12.30. The male nurse had fifty-eight helpless patients to feed. It was not many minutes after dinner, and the things were not cleared away. Had the Inspector come later the ward would have been straight.

Another speaker said the male staff in the ward was under staffed at the time. He referred to the spitefulness of the nursing profession to male nurses, and said that bread crumbs in the beds were a minor consideration.

The Chairman stated that the Report of the Ministry of Health's Inspector had been circulated all over the country. Parents would read it and think that their Infirmary was not a place for their daughters to come to. Many of their nurses were absolutely upset about it.

In regard to bedsores, he had lain in hospital two or three days and had an inflammation come on his back. The Inspector did not mention anything about the bedsores being dressed.

When she said that there was no lack of money he supposed it was because she moved a cloth on a nurse's dressing table and five treasury notes (which the nurse was probably saving for some purpose) flew out. It was impossible for the Inspector to frame a report of value in the time she stayed in the wards for inspection. She came into contact with the staff in each ward for about five minutes.

The Board had nothing to complain of about the nurses coming on duty late. They might be held up by a coal strike, or a railway strike, but it was very seldom they came in at the gate late.

He agreed with Mr. Thomas. He hoped the next time an Inspector was sent she would be unbiassed and of open mind. One who would know if a nurse had fifty-eight patients to keep clean.

It was disgraceful, the Guardians were of opinion, that the cases in the Male Chronic Ward were such that no female ought to handle, and at the time of the Inspector's visit there was one man to attend to them all.

The Chairman said he was astonished at the low tone with which the debate was opened. It indicated a party spirit which did not mind what tools it used to back up its party. Reforms must be made, but to go to the world and say that the Report was even fair was disgraceful. The characters of their nursing staff were stolen from them by this woman on conversation and gossip. If they went elsewhere they would be turned down. It was scandalous the letters that had been put in the papers.

He had been in hospital himself, and knew that abrasions could not be avoided. The Report was manifestly unfair. But in spite of the Infirmary Committee's Report the Infirmary was attacked.

It was a silly thing to foul one's own nest. Certainly they should stand up for their Institution. All those who attended the meetings of the Infirmary Visiting Committee were unanimous that the Inspector's complaints were comparatively slight. (Shouts of No, No, NO. Very grave.)

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