

followed the example of its sister Institutions at Kensington, Chelsea, Dulwich, St. George's in the East, or St. Marylebone, and organized a regular Training School for Nurses. We are equally unaware of the number or quality of the attendants chiefly employed at Lambeth, but, for the sake of the profession, earnestly hope that they belong to the class to which the Select Committee very naturally urge an objection.

The evidence, given at the inquest to which we refer, was as follows. It was held to consider the cause of death of a widow named CAROLINE FOSTER, aged seventy-eight years, a recent inmate of the Infirmary for seven weeks. A niece of the deceased stated that CAROLINE FOSTER was taken out from the Infirmary, by her, on May 12th, because she was so unhappy there. Upon taking her home—in a cab—the witness found that her aunt was much bruised about the right arm, and that the right thigh was greatly swollen. A doctor was at once called in, and found that the thigh was fractured. He put this up in splints, which relieved her, but she gradually sank, and died on July 20th from "shock to the system, caused by the accident," and, we presume, from the fact also that, for some days at least, this poor old woman had been suffering from a fractured thigh without attention, and in that state had been taken a journey in a cab. The niece, very naturally, went to the Infirmary, on May 15th, to inquire into the cause for these injuries. "She saw both the Nurse and Matron, who stated they knew nothing about them." She then "went into the ward lately occupied by deceased, and made inquiries of the patients, who informed her that deceased had had a dreadful fall the day previous to leaving the Infirmary. She was picked up and put to bed." "The next day, when they tried to dress her to take her away, her screams were frightful, and they were unable to dress her." Witness further stated that "shortly previous to deceased coming away, the Nurse pushed her into the bath room in a naked state." It is difficult to believe that this occurred after the accident, but the witness stated that her aunt "was screaming the whole time, and upon the Nurse

being spoken to, she replied, 'She's always screaming.'"

ELIZABETH WATSON, a Nurse at the Infirmary, said that she remembered the patient. She *heard* one day that the woman had met with an accident—she "examined her, and failed to discover any bruises." The deceased evidently had pain at the knee, but witness was not aware that the thigh was fractured.

ANNA HOWE, Head Nurse at the Lambeth Infirmary, saw the deceased on May 12th, prior to her leaving the Institution, when the patient complained of pains in her knee, and she called the Medical Superintendent's attention to it. It was so swollen that he could not ascertain whether there was a fracture, but the niece was strongly advised not to remove her aunt, but insisted upon doing so.

The Assistant Medical Officer stated that his attention was called to the patient on May 10th, and he found a contusion on the right knee joint.

The Jury returned the following verdict:—"That the deceased met her death by accidentally falling down in the ward of the Lambeth Infirmary. The Jury also think that the officials should be severely censured, for not attending to her sooner, and also for not informing her niece of her fall." Now, it is plain to any professional mind, that the attention given to the sick poor in the Lambeth Infirmary must be of the most elementary character, so far as nursing is concerned. It is notorious that, with the multifarious duties which, under the Poor Law system, are cast upon the two or three resident medical men, it is a physical impossibility for them to give minute attention to 600 or 700 patients as well. In fact, they are far more dependent for information as to the progress and symptoms of their patients than their brethren are who work in our General Hospitals. It is almost incredible that a trained nurse should think that patients, even when 78 years of age, are "always screaming" without some cause; and we feel confident that, in this case, this symptom was never reported to the medical superintendent. It is pitiable to think of this poor old wreck of humanity being picked up from the floor by her fellow paupers, who put her in a chair, and stood

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