

It is my duty to allude to a circumstance of a very painful nature, which not only caused the Governors much anxiety and produced a good deal of excitement in the community, but also gave rise to an unfounded report that some of the officers of the Institution connived at the audacious and disreputable act of stealing the body of a pauper patient from the Dead House of the Hospital. It is gratifying to know, however, that the Committee of Management, after a careful investigation, arrived at the conclusion that no person connected with the Institution had been concerned in the matter. Subsequently, however, and after an investigation had been commenced by the Police Magistrate, the Chairman of the Committee received a letter from two medical students, avowing that they were the sole participators in the act of taking the body, and stating that they had previously given information where it might be found. The body was found at the place named, and was subsequently interred with due decency in the Cemetery.

A rumour prevailed that abstractions similar to this had frequently occurred, and that if the coffins in the vault of the Cemetery were examined, many of them would be found empty. The Committee had no reason whatever to believe that such was the fact; and they now hold the certificate of Mr. Spriggins, the Superintendent of the Cemetery, that he had opened all the coffins which had been brought there from the Hospital during the winter, and that all of the bodies had been undisturbed.

With the view of preventing a similar occurrence in future, a new Dead-house is about being erected, with such arrangements as will effectually fulfil the object contemplated. Before leaving this unpleasant subject, the Governors cannot withhold an expression of regret that in some quarters a style and tone of comment with reference to this Institution should have been adopted, calculated to prejudice the interests of a charity which has for so many years conferred upon the poor of all classes its invaluable offices, and whose management has uniformly secured the approbation of the Legislature as well as of the people.

During the past year the following gentlemen have qualified themselves, by their handsome donations, to become Governors of