

VERMIN AND BAD FOOD.

Further Damaging Evidence Against Hospital Management—Neglect of Nurses.

Yesterday's Session of Investigating Commission—More Testimony Regarding Bad Conditions—Some Amusing Evidence.

The commission investigating the charges made against the management of the General Public Hospital sat Friday afternoon and after receiving testimony of a character damaging to the institution from several witnesses, adjourned until 11 o'clock this morning. The evidence given corroborates that previously received regarding the evidence of vermin in the hospital, the general pooriness of the food supplied and the carelessness of many of the attendants, although testimony on this last point was not so unanimous as upon the others. The chairman of the commission allowed the utmost elasticity in the presentation of evidence and admitted much second-hand and seemingly irrelevant testimony in order to secure the greatest possible information on the subject. Some of the witnesses were eagerly visible in presenting complaints, but it is significant that the most damaging testimony came from those who were most reluctant to say anything derogatory to the management.

At the opening of the session, his honor the chairman read a letter signed "Physician," complaining of the hospital regulations regarding admission, and recommending that patients should be admitted on a certificate from any registered practitioner. His honor deprecated the principle of sending anonymous letters, and said that any communication to receive the attention of the commission must be signed by the writer's name.

MRS DYVELYN MCGOURTY, the first witness called by Mr. Trueman, told of service as a nurse in the hospital about four years ago, and of caring for the man Roberts, who was affected with leprosy, as she was informed by the visiting physician, Dr. Emery. He was kept in room 13, she thought, and was under her care over a week. She treated other patients at the same time. She had orders from Dr. Ellis to be very careful about disinfecting everything connected with Roberts, even before she knew he was affected by leprosy.

In answer to a question from the chairman, the witness stated that she understood the patient had later been taken to Tracadie. She left the hospital because she did not wish to attend such a disease. She had never graduated, nor had she nursed in the hospital since. Roberts was a colored man from Bermuda. She thought the resident physician at the hospital was aware of the nature of the disease before the patient was admitted. She had been told to keep the matter quiet when she was informed of the existence of leprosy. She had never applied for re-admission to the hospital.

Cross-examined by Mr. Coster—She considered that type of leprosy was infectious. She did not remember being told the man was a leper except by Dr. Emery. She had been told to keep the matter quiet by Miss Mitchell, the matron. Dr. Emery had expressed no doubt regarding the disease of the man. She did not know that the disease had since been proved not to be leprosy. When she left the hospital she was told by Miss Mitchell that she could not come back. She had never made any effort to do so by appealing to the commissioners or otherwise.

J. H. WASSON, who at the last session had given such a glowing picture of his hospital experience, was recalled and admitted having been somewhat disturbed at night by mice running over the floor. He had forgotten that while giving his testimony previously. After being annoyed by the mice he had complained to Dr. White. Traps were then set in the room and a cat procured, so that several mice were captured and the room ridged of the nuisance. In explaining further his omission to mention this when previously examined he stated that he felt so grateful to the hospital for the cure wrought in his case that he couldn't say anything that would reflect on the management. With the exception of the mice, which did not bother him much, his experience there was more than satisfactory. He might have said to a visitor when he first went there that the attendants dared not neglect him as he had so many friends visiting him, but he was not responsible for his confinement, as his mind was affected by the other administered.

MISS EDITH ALLAN of 151 Leinster street, the next witness summoned, made with visible reluctance some rather damaging statements against the administration. She had been a nurse in the hospital from October to November, 1898. She left because she found the work too heavy and had no fault to find with the staff in any way. Once she had thrown out gravel furnished to a patient because it was sour, giving beef tea instead. On another occasion the gravel was sour and she was told to give it by another nurse, as no bottles for nursing was procurable. She was told by the matron that she took a great deal upon herself in throwing out food provided by the hospital. Witness also complained of the lack of utensils provided. She had often difficulty in procuring hot water bottles for patients, as most of the bottles provided leaked. She remembered taking a bottle from a typhoid bed for another patient, but she carefully steamed the article before transferring it. Regarding the food in the hospital, she would consider the butter bad. "I had to put sugar into it when it used to myself," she said, and added indignantly "But the nurse said I would

get used to it if I stayed there long enough." She admitted also that the bread was generally sour and that she had some sent her from her own home. One typhoid patient to whom she had given the sour gravel experienced a considerable rise in temperature afterward.

Cross-examined by Mr. Coster, she said the water bottles to which she referred were of tin, used for warming beds. The patient to whom she referred was a Mr. Cheesman. The bread for the hospital was supplied by Mr. Mitchell, the baker. It was nearly always sour.

To the chairman—in reference to all these matters she had made only plain, and she knew that they had ever been brought to the attention of the commissioners.

GEORGE O'DONNELL, a domestic employed by James E. Emery, gave a graphic description of his residence about a week in the hospital last fall and found considerable fault with the way the meat and vegetables were cooked. The bread also, she said, was usually bad and often contained things.

"What do you mean by things," interrupted the chairman.

"On pieces of dirt and hair and stuff like that which I had to pick out before I could eat it. I couldn't use the butter either it was so bad. I used to put salt on my bread from a shaker that was rusty and had made the salt all red. But the nurses told me that the iron was good for me."

Continuing, the witness said she had seen lice on a bed occupied by a woman who had only been there two days. When she went there she was bathed and given clean clothes. When she got her own clothes back they smelt of carbolic acid, as if they had been disinfected. While in the hospital she was bathed again at her own request. The first night she was there she was troubled by bed bugs so that she tried to stay awake all night for fear of them and sleep in the daytime. She also saw one mouse in the bed of another patient. The toilet rooms were in a bad condition and she had seen the accumulated slops from the ward dumped there until the basin overflowed on the floor, the exit being choked. Regarding medicine, she personally been served all right, though she had heard other patients complain. She had noticed that the nurses were far more careful when the doctor was about to come around. The night nurse, she considered, did not give proper attention to her ward. The patients could not get what they wanted, even requests for a drink of water being refused, so that in many cases some of the other patients in the ward would take pity on the sufferer and satisfy his wants.

Cross-examined by Mr. Coster—Miss Northrup, the night nurse, was the worst offender. The others were good and kind enough, but sometimes neglected to give proper attention. These were Miss Ellis, Miss Morris and Miss Munroe. The witness had not come to the commission of her own accord, but on account of a summons she had received. She had seen Miss Northrup and other nurses pay no attention to requests from patients.

To Commissioner Lee—She had complained of vermin and Miss Mitchell had promised that it would be seen to. The clothing on the bed was changed about once a week, perhaps twice. It was always changed on visiting days.

WM. M. CAMPBELL, Dorchester street, Carleton, a ferry employe, next appeared and made a lengthy and voluble complaint concerning the treatment his wife had received during her residence in the hospital for an operation. He made several strong statements not creditable to the hospital service, but as his testimony was hearsay he was thought better to request that his wife herself should appear. According to the hospital Mrs. Campbell was in the hospital from April 15 till May 10, 1901, during which time he visited her every day. He went in with her when she entered and she was to have, finding that it had not been properly cleaned. On the wall were marks of where bed bugs had been smothered, and in the commode were soiled and bloody clothes, evidently left from the last patient. He was especially in the hospital at meal times, and heard his wife complain of the food. The bread was sour and the butter rank. The meat was cut off in chunks and, with the vegetables, was not served in an appetizing manner—often cold and greasy. Eggs were served, and the half cooked, while some nurses would replace them with better others declined. After a time he provided the bread and butter himself during the rest of his visits. He spoke of the food to Commissioner Allan, not to make a complaint but simply to bring the matter to his attention. Allan said that during the month he had examined the food and found it excellent. Witness later saw Alderman McGoldrick, who was the commissioner for that month, and stated his complaints to him. While they were talking Dr. Macaulay joined them, and Aid. McGoldrick took him to task for allowing bad food to enter the hospital. Dr. Macaulay asserted that while the bread and other food had sometimes been bad they had during the past month been everything that could be desired.

"I told the doctor," continued the witness, "that he knew he was not telling the truth, and he said that he was served with the same food as the patients. I questioned the truth of that statement also, for I knew from some of the hospital help that the best food was placed on the tables of the doctors and the matron."

Dr. Campbell had no fault at all to find with the commissioners, who had always treated him courteously. The evening after he made his complaint to the hospital, he was served with an excellent meal and this continued during the rest of her stay. Mrs. Campbell, he said, had also complained of negligence of nurses, who often kept her waiting for an hour or so before answering her call, and often seemed so impatient when asked to do things that she had to exert herself unnecessarily to do them for herself rather than ask the nurses. There was also complaint regarding the heating of the rooms and one night when the room was cold

the nurse neglected to cover her with a blanket which had fallen back of the bed, so that she was affected with neuralgia, for some time afterward. Mrs. Campbell had intended to remain and undergo a second operation, but after it was found that the attendants were endeavoring to retaliate in many petty ways for her husband's complaint to the commissioners, she was, on the advice of Dr. Emery, taken home until she could be admitted to the private hospital, or until the management of the public institution had undergone a change. Dr. Emery had acknowledged to the witness that affairs in the hospital were not as they should be, and that the good name of the institution was suffering. The witness complained of the uncleanly condition of the closets and said that after his wife was able to sit up, her request for an arm chair was ignored.

To Mr. Coster—He only knew by hearsay that the food served to the matron and the doctors was different from that of the patients. He declined to name the source of his information. Mr. Coster insisted that the statement was not true and pressed his demand for the name of the informant. The chairman supported Mr. Coster, but the witness still declined. He also refused to give the name of the nurses complained against, and thought his wife, who could give definite information, should be called. The night nurse in attendance, he said, was Miss Byrne.

Mr. Coster thought that Mrs. Campbell had better have come in the witness' place, as he apparently knew nothing of what he was talking about, but was willing to make general damaging statements without offering anything but hearsay in support of them.

His Honor the Chief Justice upheld Mr. Coster's contention, and ordered the presence of Mrs. Campbell the following morning at 11 o'clock.

MISS IDA DUNCAN, who had testified at a previous investigation, appeared to amend some of her statements and expressed a desire to tell more of what she had heard from her sister, but his honor declined to admit more evidence of that kind.

But the fun of the investigation was furnished when Henry Akery, an octogenarian, was called to the witness' stand. He had been in the hospital for six months over two years ago, when he had been suffering from a broken leg. He had been in the hospital as long as he could get out, so much that he was nearly glad to get out.

"What did you find wrong there?" asked Mr. Trueman.

"I found," said Mr. Akery, "that my back was all sore and aching from lying in the bed so long. I asked for something to put on my back, but they wouldn't give me anything. I found that the nurses were very nice. I found that Dr. Christie was all right and that Dr. Macaulay didn't do what Dr. Christie told him to do. I found that the nurses were very nice. I found that the nurses were very nice. I found that the nurses were very nice."

"I don't want to see it," said the witness, and the bandage was reluctantly replaced.

Richardson attempted once to go to the water closet, continued the witness, and fell. The nurse said: "If he has not got better sense than to do that, it serves him right," meaning that he should not have got out of bed. The doctor said the toast witness gave Richardson might hurt the man, and witness asked what the probable effect of the potatoes and meat which he was fed with would be.

"What did you do to O'Leary's slippers?" asked Mr. Coster.

"That was a joke. The slippers squeaked and a patient said if some one soaked them he would give \$5, so I put them in the bath tub and turned the tap."

"Did you get the \$5?" asked Mr. Trueman.

"No, I never went after it." Mr. Trueman testified that he had the run of the hospital by leave of Miss Kellier, one of the nurses, and did a good deal of work in the wards. Mr. Tate, a patient, on Friday called him to get his wife, as he said he was dying. Miss Kellier ordered him back to the ward. He was ordered out of Mr. Tate's room before by Miss Ellis. Mr. Tate never ordered him out of the room.

MRS. WILLIAM M. CAMPBELL was then called. She testified that she was the wife of Mr. Campbell, who was taken to a private room, and it appeared as if it had not been cleaned after the last patient went out. The commode contained dirty clothes and the walls were stained as if bugs had been killed on them. The mattress was dirty and stained brown, and there were bed bugs. Witness found these on the bed. The food at times was good and at others was not good at all. The porridge was lumpy, the bread sour and the butter was always bad. It was often in fact. Butter and bread were sent in to her from outside. The meat was very tough at times. Eggs that were given her were bad. She never got a good one. She asked Miss Flagg for a good egg one time, after she had been given her breakfast, and was told that the lid did not come up again after breakfast, but, witness said, a lunch was sent up to the nurses. A stale egg given her one time made her sick. While on a light diet, after the operation, she was given chicken broth that tasted like a mixture of water and pepper. The doctor told the nurse to put more chicken in it. Witness testified that she took a bath in the bath room once, and the tub appeared to be dirty and there was an offensive smell from the room. While taking the bath she was disturbed by a fly, which she thought ought to have gone somewhere else.

At first the day nurses were very kind, but the night nurse, Miss Byrne, was short and snappy. After the operation her underwear was not put on, and as a result she took neuralgia, from which she suffered during all the time she was in the hospital. Several nights after the operation Miss Byrne came in, after witness had rung the bell, and did what she was asked to do. She was needed later on, but did not heed either the bell or the voice of the witness. An hour or so later Miss Byrne came in, and when the patient spoke to her of her inattention she told Mrs. Campbell was crazy. One time she waited for two days for medicine, although she asked for it morning and night. It was a medicine she should have had.

Witness intended to have a second operation, but was advised not to, on account of the feeling existing between the nurses and the matron and herself.

To Mr. Coster—The nurses who were in attention were Miss Byrne, Miss Flagg and Miss Ferris. The last spoke very unkindly to her, because she was in the ward with the patient, Miss Ganong and Miss Smith were very nice. She thought it was Miss Marlowe Smith. Miss Byrne refused to put a blanket on her when she was asked to do so. She also refused to do something else, which the witness said she could not explain. The matron, Miss Mitchell, appeared to take Miss Byrne's part.

"The bread was always bad?" asked Mr. Coster.

"Yes, it was and the butter."

She told Dr. Emery she could not put up with the food much longer, so Mr. Trueman reported that Mrs. E. Cusick, of Waterloo street, was summoned and had not appeared, and that Charles O'Neill, of Coldbrook, was summoned, but he had a running sore and could not attend.

OLIVER YEOMANS testified that he went into the hospital on Jan. 31st of this year, and was discharged Friday morning for giving a piece of toast to a patient, which the latter was unable to get in any other way. As a result Dr. Bayfield said to him: "Get your clothes and get out as quick as you can."

Richardson was the patient who asked him for the toast, and he went to Miss Kellier for it and by her was directed to Miss Holder, from whom he obtained it. Richardson said when he received it: "If I could get this right along I would feel like living."

"Were you sick when you went into the hospital?" asked the chief justice.

"I was."

"And when you were discharged?" "I am. If you don't believe me, look at that," said the patient, as he started to remove a bandage around his neck.

SURPRISE SOAP is Pure Hard Soap. SURPRISE SURPRISE

P. E. ISLAND. Charlottetown's Last Smallpox House Released From Quarantine.

Investigating the Conduct of the Stanley's Officers—Recent Deaths—Civic Elections in Summerside—The Photo Trade.

CHARLOTTETOWN, Feb. 23.—The Göteli family at Georgetown have been released from quarantine. This is the last scene in the smallpox drama.

St. John A. Stuart of Malpeque has returned from London, B. C., where he has spent five years.

While Ernest Stanley was shooting at Covehead on Saturday his gun was accidentally discharged. The charge tore the second and third fingers of the left hand very painfully.

Peter Ferguson, formerly of Norboro, has left on his return to the Klondyke.

A lodge of Good Templars has been organized at Fortune Bridge.

Wm. Brown, formerly of Stanley, was married recently in Vancouver to Florence Cameron. They will reside in Spokane.

The retail merchants of Charlottetown have formed an association, which will have for an object the one-price system.

The Foresters of Mt. Herbert held a social in the hall a few nights ago, at which \$2 was realized.

The funeral of the late Rev. R. F. Brine took place at Summerside on Friday afternoon. The pall-bearers were: W. B. Mills, R. L. Romack, Henry E. Wright, C. E. Rogers, W. P. Rogers, and C. G. Saunders.

Stuart Simpson of New Glasgow has returned from Montreal, where he underwent an operation for appendicitis.

Rev. R. G. Sinclair of Canard, N. S., has accepted a call to the Presbyterian church at Montague, who the Summerside people claim, were trying to block the efforts to establish a winter route there.

Among the recent deaths in P. E. Island are: James Stewart of South Lake, aged 67 years; Mrs. Agnes MacKinnon, aged 67 years; John Fort, aged 88 years; Mrs. J. H. Fort, aged 88 years; John D. Robertson of Eldon, in the 23rd year of his age; Mrs. J. Henry McKenzie of Bay View; Mildred Stanley, 15 years old, daughter of David Stanley, died yesterday morning of diphtheria; Flora May MacFadden of Greek River, aged 18 years; Mrs. (Rev.) Samuel McLeod of Vieg, aged 85 years; Charles Harding of Graham's Road, aged 85 years; Mrs. Pillman of Graham's Road.

A new Baptist church is to be built at Cavendish, near Cavendish hall. The building is to cost about \$2,000 and is to be completed by September.

RECENT DEATHS.

The death occurred Saturday of Mrs. John McKechnie of Chapel street. She had been sick about six weeks, and was about thirty-five years of age.

Hugh D. Robinson, of St. Stephen, formerly a resident of Baillie, Charlotte Co., died Feb. 28th of pneumonia, and was buried with the funeral service of the Oddfellows.

William Innis, a prominent farmer of Dundee, Restigouche Co., is dead, aged 62.

The death occurred yesterday morning of William M. Richardson, a member of one of the old families of Halifax. All the property in the peninsula called Studley, once belonged to this family, and was occupied by the deceased until a few years ago.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Pass, widow of John C. Pass, died at her home at Harvey Station, York Co., Thursday. She was the eldest daughter of the late George Coburn and was in the 53rd year of her age. She is survived by three sons and three daughters, most of whom are grown up.

Mrs. McCully of MacAdam and Mrs. G. Campbell of Woodstock, Ont., are her daughters.

Newman Shaw, aged 30, married, committed suicide at Windsor, Carleton county, Thursday, by drinking carbolic acid. He left a note saying it was his own act and no one was to blame. He was the son of Matthew Shaw, now in Aroostook county.

Bicyclists and all athletes depend on BENTLEY'S Liniment to keep their joints limber and muscles in trim.

WHAT MIRAMICHI PRESBYTERIANS GAVE.

From the official Blue Book of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for last year, just to hand, we glean the following figures respecting the congregations in the county of Northumberland. The amounts are the totals given by these congregations to the schemes of the church during the year, and which were actually received by the agent of the church at Halifax, Rev. Dr. MacCurdy: Black River, \$75; Blackville, \$68; Doaktown, \$97; St. Andrew's, Chatham, \$85; St. John's, Chatham, \$83; Douglastown (no return); Hardwick, \$15; Millerton, \$53; Loggieville, \$64; Newcastle, \$148; Redbank, \$141; Tabusintac, \$57.

Other congregations in the Presbytery of Miramichi gave as follows: Campbellton, \$249; Carleton Place, \$21; Dalhousie, \$36; Edmundston, \$35; New Mills, \$246; New Richmond, \$193; Bass River, \$51.—Chatham World.

SEVERE PAINS IN LEFT KIDNEY.

Three Years of Suffering Before a Cure Was Found—All Credit Given to DR. CHASE'S KIDNEY-LIVER PILLS.

Before quoting Mr. Gallant's letter, which is quoted below, look over these symptoms and see if your kidneys are in a healthy condition. Scores of people attribute their sufferings to stomach troubles or indigestion, when the real cause of the discomfort is in the failure of the kidneys to properly filter the blood.

PAR Colonel T. Seco His Grit Frie Into Devl to Hon. Mr. Tarte laf—A Hearty Charles Putter mons—Totty Protection.

OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—Agred to clear o'clock. Dr. Doddick bill for the council in Car since last year of this country Winnipeg and was heartily some amendm provided that represented in tion to the n each province in Canada sation in the Col. Hughes total cost of 1901 was about Sir Wilfrid question asked regard to reser the tion was a fisheries, this portfolio had belonging to It was fit and Inces should net, but the tion was a most prevai circumstances R. L. Bord appointed to high position there was no of minister should always from the ma lieved the ne plenty of wor if occasion ar position woul give him a Mr. Borden that the post had been held members of Mr. Hughes pressing the religious de ended, ether "archbishops serenity," or section 11 to demoralizing "rebels" scolding his n that the pre was a relic of church and s great harm. Be conceded, religious Bmo the same foot. Sir Wilfrid the question a great importa had unfortun a position at tory of the com ment of Car for the preser governor gen the place w at state cerea and the precece re agreed that reason to con of affairs and acute at the He was not s impo to be dis senting of such recogni sired such r tainly entit state child were on a K pointed to r report and satisfactory would be ap perial autho the governm to be intere interested.

Mr. Frazer not examin for some th but if he re contained s presented s stance for a stand for a surd. (Hea not think t nized at al R. L. Bord ing a high lves of the hardly fol which he c lergy. (L THE AGH The minist table of the pondene v the govern In a comm Jan. 6th, Maceon of their hosp While not stalling a telegraphy thinks it a vantage if come in so undertakin to a succe makes the 1st—Marc Co. is in e stations, or in Nova Sc the under carry on o Canada and Europ and the contribute the erecti

FOUND HER LOST FORTUNE

Of health through believing what she read in the elation-proved truth. South American Kidney Cure cured a violent type of Kidney Disease.

Children Cry for CASTORIA.

IN NEW POSITIONS. Robt. S. Sime, for years with A. O. Skinner, leaves next week to fill a lucrative position with Messrs. Gordon & Keith, Halifax.

George K. Cochran is now representative of the Scottish Rubber Co. and the Canadian Underwear Co. in the maritime provinces. Walter I. Jones will leave St. John shortly to take the management of a drug store at Amherst.