

pence or sevenpence. 'cordin' to size." The Tripe Dresser had plied his trade for twenty years. "You see, sir, I sells the scrapin's for pigs' food and keeps myself in beer and tobacco."

A poor miserable bantam Cockney named Strongi'th'arm kept us all, patients included, in fits of laughter. He was a Fireman in a Laundry. He made the most extraordinary grimaces and wrinkled up his forehead when he talked in his dead-earnest way. His ailment called for starvation for a short time, and the day after this treatment had been begun he asked his medical adviser—and the whole ward shook with merriment at his particularly picturesque description of his inward feelings—"Please, sir, do give me something to eat. 'Seuse me, sir, as we s'y in Lunnon, the insoides is beginnin' to eat up the worms."

The Female Impersonator from Banbury was a pretty pink-checked boy. The sister decked him up in an old rose bed-jacket; his bed became his stage and the other patients an approving audience. We asked him how he could sing so like a girl, and he explained, "You see, sir, I just put the American Clips on the back of my tongue and it's easy. They're made of silver, and my sister sent them to me from New York."

One day we saw a fine set of white teeth half worn down on the right side in front. The diagnosis was obviously not an old clay pipe, and the owner explained: "That's from biting opals. I am a Farmer and Miner in Australia and that's the way we test their colour." From that day forth this romantic person was shown off to all our visitors as "Buzzacott, the Opal Chipper." Here surely was a title for a shilling shocker.

What treats there are in store for us during the coming year we know not, but it will take a very extraordinary trade to surprise us now. There is a very human side to every patient, especially in these troublous times. If any worker in a hospital or any visitor to the wards finds his task irksome and tiresome let him try our prescription. It is a sure cure for *ennui*; in the questioner as well as in the questioned.