

ease and death. Just the other day Mrs. Leathes, writing to the press, called attention to the plan in use in Australia and New Zealand to give such women a pension till her children are able to do something for themselves. This is an excellent suggestion.

A 17TH CENTURY SURGEON AND HIS FEE.

Mr. Justice Riddell contributed to the *New York Medical Journal* of 4th March a most interesting article on a case that was tried at the Guildhall, May 4th, 1687, before Sir Thomas Street, Justice of the Common Bench. The article is in Mr. Justice Riddell's finest vein of constructive humor.

The case was of this sort. Sir Thomas Powis interceded between two men of the sword and received a severe wound in his arm. The pain and other conditions of the wound made him very weak. He sought the advice of one who practised the art and mystery of surgery. He treated the wound according to the teachings of that day with topical application, but the wound did not heal, and the patient became very much afraid of gangrene.

He then discontinued this surgeon and sought the advice of another of the barber-surgeons by the name of Mr. Randall. Mr. Randall made no use of the usual liniments and topical applications recommended in those days; but instead he cleansed the wound with water and dressed it with clean linen. The wound healed and Sir Thomas Powis made a good recovery. He refused to give any fee to Mr. Randall and the latter sued the patient.

The case was tried by Sir Thomas Street, as stated. The judge went into a lengthy argument that as he had made no use of the applications recommended in the books by the masters he was not entitled to any fee; and further, that the applications made by the first surgeon may have continued to do good, while the patient was attended by the second surgeon.

The jury was accordingly charged that as Mr. Randall had done nothing, having no credit in the case, neither should he be given cash. The verdict was given against the surgeon. We have read of the case of Deacon Rogers' wife by Will Carlton. The doctor gave her fresh aid and sunlight, and the Deacon thought there should be no bill to pay.

THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE MINDED.

There is a very old saying to the effect "the poor ye have always with you," and judging by the lay press "the feeble minded we have