

While the large majority accept these gifts with gratitude, there is another class who demand this charity as a right, and would not be satisfied if "Angel Gabriel" appeared and ministered to their wants. This class is largely composed of persons who, having deceived the Commissioners regarding their poverty, occupy the beds of the poor at the expense of the rate-payer.

Again, the "out-door departments" of all hospitals are sadly abused. It is claimed that in London nearly 2,000,000 visits are paid yearly to the various hospitals by applicants for advice and medicine, one-half of whom are not fit subjects for such charity, being well able to pay for that which they obtain. This abuse has so alarmingly reduced the voluntary contributions to those institutions that the authorities are making strong efforts to remedy the evil.

This evil does not exist in the same proportion in St. John, but we are approaching it. The Commissioners find it difficult to discriminate, and the waiting-room at the Hospital is often occupied by persons who would feel insulted if classed as paupers, and who would not dare to ask such charity from any other source. I do not wish to convey the impression that such charity should not be afforded. Better to give to two undeserving, than to withhold from one who really deserves it.

It would fill pages to name each individual who has contributed valuable articles for the comfort of the sick and afflicted in this institution; also, the lady visitors who, by their presence and kind sympathy, have done so much towards relieving the misery of the sick bed. To one and all we here tender our sincere thanks.