

neither here nor there so far as Mr Hickman's enquiry went.

'I have been in this district ever since it began to be opened up, gentlemen, and the records of the sort of practice I have got together over an area at least as big as the Weed Inspectorship here, were the only means I had of arriving at any exact idea as to this need, myself. It has been quite as much as I could do to keep pace with the work. But for other localities,' and his manner became animated, (Liston had it so much at heart Finlay should have paved the way), 'statistics of all the accidents, sicknesses and births, especially unattended births, occurring over any given area for any given length of time, would make the point—if it were to be made, or leave the supposed need there, unproved.'

'Quite so, quite so—I think I take you. But it's a pity a place like this should be started if it can't be maintained.' Mr Hickman put up his stylo, and handed Liston a cheque taking no notice whatever of the attempted thanks.

'I don't see that this assistance is likely to be of any permanent use. It only amounts to a plank thrown overboard in aid of financially half-drowned rats. Excuse the metaphor. But in a sparsely populated country like this, with few available methods of local publicity and enormous distances for news to travel, you cannot, surely, depend on voluntary subscriptions. An institution