

FORMER NURSES AT GENERAL HOSPITAL GIVE SOME REMARKABLE EVIDENCE.

Patients Disturbed at Night by Noise of Doctors and Nurses—Doctor Bayard's Contribution—His Opinion That Smallpox Got Into the Main Hospital from the Epidemic—His Suggested Improvements.

Friday was the Royal Commission's busy day, and in fact was somewhat of a bustling time for all connected with the case. Morning, afternoon and late into the evening the work of inquiry went on...

THE DAY SITTING. Doctor Inches and Holden Not in Favor of Present System. Miss Ada Burns testified. She said she graduated from the hospital in 1887 and afterwards took a post-graduate course at the Polytechnic Hospital, New York.

The closest accommodation is small. The older part of the building has closets of an old-fashioned type and the rooms are too small for the utensils in them. The old closets have no ventilation, but the new closets have a wooden rim. The new part of the hospital has better appliances. The hospital has an odor of carbolic which it is difficult to tell if there is an odor from the closets.

Dr. Holden was not connected with the hospital, but had a general knowledge of the system of management. A young doctor fresh from college is generally fitted for the medical duties of the position, but not for the executive work of running such an institution. It would be better to have a young man who had had some experience in the management of a hospital.

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deal to do and no head nurse to assist me. I think both a superintendent of nurses and housekeeper are required. At times the nurses were overworked. The food supplied was very good. I think there might have been better ward equipments. To Mr. Coster—With the exception of the menials I think the nurses did the best they could. The work as a rule was well done. Doctor Christie and Dr. Geo. Allen attended their duties faithfully.

Miss Melissa A. Brown, said she was a nurse in the hospital from 1886 to 1887, and went back as head nurse in 1888. At that time there were sometimes 14 on the staff, but it frequently dropped to 10 or 11. I do not think a probationer of two weeks should be placed in charge of a ward, but I don't know. It occurred more than once. Junior nurses were often placed in charge of a ward. I considered the discipline very loose during my time, but can't say who was responsible. I was head nurse discipline was not good, but I had no authority to improve it. My duties as head nurse were not defined. I got my instructions from the doctor. My duties always formed themselves, but I had no special assignment from any one.

Miss Mitchell's Evidence Taken by the Royal Commission Saturday. A hospital matron's lot isn't always a happy one any more than a policeman's—that is when her lines happen to be cast in the St. John Public Hospital, and doubtless Miss Mitchell, the present matron of that institution, realized the fact on Saturday forenoon, when for nearly an hour she ran the gauntlet of close questioning by W. H. Trueman. Miss Mitchell unobtrusively repudiated all that had been said by former patients, nurses and physicians. Miss Mitchell was not a satisfactory witness, and a little more frankness would have rendered her a more favorable impression than a little more reticence. In Miss Mitchell's way of looking at it, there was a laxity of discipline among nurses or physicians. It was five years ago or so, as it was five years ago that she was in charge of the hospital. There was never been a time the discipline was not first class in every way. Some of the physicians who have given testimony have said that they had never seen a nurse who had not been in the hospital for some time. There has indeed been a variety of opinion offered in evidence on this subject. Practically nothing new has been said along these lines. Though the chairman frequently reminded Miss Mitchell that she had nothing to fear from a clear straight-forward testimony, she was not a good deal that naturally escaped the matron's memory with the lapse of time and she was unable to recall many of the facts. Her testimony was very interesting. One point not hitherto mentioned was that of nurses up and down the ward in the habit of putting up medicine bottles along the wall. This practice was summarily put an end to.

Miss Mitchell's Evidence. Miss Emma J. Mitchell said she had been matron for five years. There are four nurses on duty at 10 o'clock. There are no probationers, but five have been accepted since the first of the year. Four nurses have been accepted since February. They were accepted on the condition that the medicine had been administered promptly. I have asked for a list of the names of the nurses who were kept awake by noises of doctors and nurses. I know of nurses not attending to their duty for a considerable time, but I don't know where they were. There were nurses for night duty.

Miss Eliza Hegan said she was matron of the General Public Hospital from 1892 to 1895. Dr. A. D. Christie was then in charge. There were no probationers. I was not satisfied with the discipline as some of the nurses did not do as I should have liked. I had some of the nurses who were not satisfied with the discipline as some of the nurses did not do as I should have liked. I had some of the nurses who were not satisfied with the discipline as some of the nurses did not do as I should have liked.

what action he took. She remembered Miss Iddolls calling her attention to bed bugs. She did not think it pedantic to bring them in. Miss Mitchell described how patients' clothes are sterilized and how the patients are bathed. All possible precautions are taken. Visitors may bring bed bugs in. Clothing of clean patients is put away without being disinfected. To Mr. Coster, Miss Mitchell said during her term she had found the four good. On one or two occasions she had seen bed bugs. She had also seen bed bugs and the butter sometimes had to be re-arranged. Very little complaint about food is heard from patients. There is not room for more nurses in the home. There are times when the nurses work well and heavy. The nurses do their work as faithfully. She had heard very few complaints from patients about nurses. Miss Gooley received very good attention. She never heard of a patient ringing for a great length of time without being answered. The discipline is good and has been. It is not fair to say that there has been drunkenness among the nurses. It was only on one occasion that she suspected a nurse of drinking. Miss Mitchell believed the money that has been heard of is the commission is spent to the best advantage. The hospital is kept clean. The management now is substantially the same as during the past five years. No fills have been put on since the inquiry started. Complaints about the food and management are groundless. Miss Gooley never complained and seemed well satisfied. Sometimes it is difficult to get rid of complaints.

Miss Clara Kellier said she had been at the hospital nearly two years. She never saw Doctor Morris in the hospital while he was tending on the smallpox. Sometimes it is necessary to go from one ward to another for utensils. Each ward is supplied with hot water bottles. Linen is got from Miss Mitchell, who always answers her bell promptly. Sometimes patients do not get a bath every week, but they would not go a fortnight without a bath. She never heard doctors complain of irregularities in giving medicine. She remembered one or two occasions when there were delays in this respect. She had often seen commissioners going through the wards and talking to patients.

Miss Winifred Flagler said she had been 16 months nursing. She did not know anything of drunkenness in the hospital and had never seen anybody in the institution drunk except patients. All patients entering are bathed. She had never seen any patient admitted without receiving a bath. She did not know of any clothing that had been put away without being disinfected afterwards being found infected with vermin. She knew of one or two instances when there was delay in getting medicine bottles filled. The doctors told her they were too busy. Sometimes when nurses are very busy there may be half an hour's delay in administering medicine. Sometimes the air in the wards is bad, due to the absence of ventilation. In cold weather the women's ward is sometimes cold at night, but if the fireman is spoken to heat can be secured. She had never seen any temperature below 60. The discipline is about the same as it was when she was admitted into the hospital. The ventilation system is necessary, but a good superintendent of nurses is more necessary.

Dr. Thomas Walker said the heating system contributed to the hospital. The government grant is not sufficient compensation for the work done for outsiders. The city and county of St. John is spring more than its share, and is carrying not only the cost of the hospital, but from all parts of the world. He thought the government should increase its grant, or there should be a right to charge the municipalities. The grant should be received from the government or the city and county of St. John. The grant should be received from the government or the city and county of St. John. The grant should be received from the government or the city and county of St. John.

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DR. BAYARD'S LETTER. His Opinion of How Smallpox Got Into the Main Hospital—He Suggests Improvements. Mr. Coster read the following letter from Dr. William Bayard, who was out of the city on professional business, and was in consequence unable to be present at the session: "When the infectious house was built it was a debatable question whether smallpox could be conveyed through the atmosphere. Some years ago a royal commission was appointed to investigate the matter. That body did not decide and asked for further facts. The responsible head of the house should be a paid official of mature years and good executive ability. There should, of course, be a board to report to. With such an officer the monthly system of commissioners could be done away with. There should be a matron in charge of the hospital. It was not at all necessary that the superintendent should be a medical man. The superintendent might, perhaps, assist with the secretary's duties. In other hospitals, visiting physicians are not paid. He did not see any objection to the admission of sailors and winter port immigrants.

"VIGILANT NEST" SLIDING—A PATENT. Patent granted to the inventor. The inventor is a resident of St. John. The invention is a sliding nest for birds. It is made of wood and is very simple in construction. It is very useful for protecting birds from the weather. The inventor is a resident of St. John. The invention is a sliding nest for birds. It is made of wood and is very simple in construction. It is very useful for protecting birds from the weather. The inventor is a resident of St. John.

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