

SATURDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER, 1890.

Dr. COPLAND resumed.

[Witness handed in a return showing the number of patients in one of the wards on the 5th September, 1890, and on the 22nd July, 1889: Exhibit xlvii.]

3869. *Mr. Chapman.*] What is the usual number of patients in, say, No. 7 ward during the months of May, June, and July—what number of beds would be ordinarily placed there?—About thirteen or fourteen.

3870. *The Chairman.*] How many beds are there altogether?—Sixteen.

3871. When you have a ward vacant for cleaning purposes, do you leave the beds in?—It is left entirely vacant until the beds are put back.

3872. The beds are moved from ward to ward?—Yes. I do not think there are beds sufficient to fill the whole of the wards. I think there are extra beds enough to put in thirteen extra patients.

3873. *Mr. Chapman.*] Do you fallow the beds pretty often?—Several times a year. The bedding is disinfected with dry heat.

3874. I want to ask you a few questions about one or two of the cases that have been referred to. Do you remember Mrs. A——'s case?—Yes.

3875. Was she placed in No. 7 ward?—She was. I think that was on the 14th of November of last year. She was in No. 7 tower ward when I went to the Hospital first, but how long she had been there before that I cannot say.

3876. Was she placed there before or after she was operated on?—Shortly after she was operated on, but I am not sure of the date.

3877. If you look at this you will see that the date was October, 1887?—That must be when she was admitted. I know nothing about that, which took place long before I came to the Hospital. I think she came from Seacliff originally.

3878. I see she was operated on in November, 1887?—Yes, that will be about the date.

3879. Do you remember the consultation? Were you present at it?—I do not remember much about it. I was on the surgical side then. I know there was a consultation, but I cannot remember anything about it now.

3880. Were you present at the operation?—I must have been.

3881. Where was she placed after the operation? In what part of the ward?—I think she was placed in the same bed.

3882. Will you mark it on that plan [produced]?—Bed No. 13.

3883. Looking at that plan, can you say what cases were alongside of her in the months of June and July?—There were Mrs. V——, Mrs. S——, Mrs. B——, and Mrs. A——.

3884. What was Mrs. S——'s case?—A case of retaining portion of the placenta.

3885. She was admitted when?—On the 10th June, and went out on the 16th June.

3886. Did she make a quick recovery?—Yes. There was an operation. The uterus was dilated, and the placenta removed.

3887. Was that a short or a long stay for such a case?—A very short stay.

3888. What was Mrs. B——'s case?—An Emmet's operation was performed upon her.

3889. On the 12th June?—Yes. She was in this bed for a few days afterwards.

3890. From the 17th June to the 20th June?—Yes, that is right. Then, on account of the want of light, she was shifted to the opposite bed, which was occupied afterwards by Mrs. S——.

3891. And she was shifted afterwards, when Mrs. S—— died, and put alongside of Kate W——?—Yes.

3892. You say she was shifted on account of the want of light. What was more light wanted for?—For the dressing of this case. She was previously in a corner that was rather dark.

3893. Did she make a good recovery?—Yes.

3894. I see she was twenty-seven days in the Hospital?—Yes.

3895. *The Chairman.*] Do you say that that is a short time?—Yes, for one of these cases. They usually stay four weeks, and sometimes five weeks.

3896. *Mr. Chapman.*] Was twenty-seven days her total time in the Hospital?—Yes.

3897. How long after the operation did she remain?—About twenty-one days.

3898. *The Chairman.*] Did she go out thoroughly cured?—I think so.

3899. At all events, she did not come back again?—No; I have never seen anything of her since.

3900. *Mr. Chapman.*] Now, Kate W—— has been spoken of as having been the original cause of Mrs. S——'s trouble. On the 20th June, the date Mrs. B—— was placed in what subsequently was Mrs. S——'s bed, what was her temperature?—About 105°, I think.

3901. I see it was 104.5°?—It was very high, and I see there was some remark made about it.

3902. She was moved over, and Dr. Batchelor was not alarmed?—No.

3903. *The Chairman.*] Did Dr. Batchelor object to her being removed?—I rather think she was removed at his request. At all events, it was not done by my order. I think the reason for it was, as I have just stated, the want of light. Mrs. B—— went over to the other side of the ward into the corner bed.

3904. *Mr. Chapman.*] Alongside of Kate W——?—Yes.

3905. Kate W——'s temperature fell from the 25th onwards till it became practically normal?—Yes.

3906. You have mentioned Mrs. A——. Was hers a case of ovariectomy?—Yes.