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From the *Geelong Register*, 5th, 6th and 7th
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A SPECIAL MEETING of the general committee of the Geelong Infirmary and Benevolent Asylum was held yesterday afternoon at the Hospital, for the purpose of enquiring into the charges made by Drs. Day and Pincott against Dr. Reid, the Resident Surgeon. There was a large attendance of members, and his Worship the Mayor was voted to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said that no doubt all the members of the committee present were aware of the object for which that meeting had been convened. Certain charges had been preferred against Dr. Reid at the annual meeting of subscribers by Dr. Day and Dr. Pincott, and those had been published in the *Register* of the 23rd January. It was to consider these that the committee had met. He would first call upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting referring to this subject.

The SECRETARY read the minutes, after which there were some few words as to whether gentlemen not members of the committee should be admitted, and it was finally agreed that there could not be any objection to it, and several gentlemen who were not on the committee took seats in the room.

The MAYOR said the reason for calling this meeting was that certain charges had been preferred against Dr. Reid, and at the annual meeting these had been delegated to the committee to enquire into and investigate. The committee had decided to request the gentlemen laying the charges to submit in writing, by Tuesday last, the specific charges they had to make, so that these could be submitted to Dr. Reid, in order that he might have time to prepare his defence. No doubt the gentlemen preferring the charges were now ready to go on with them.

The SECRETARY then read the correspondence which had passed on this subject, consisting of letters to Dr. Day and Dr. Pincott, requesting them to send in their charges, and the replies of those gentlemen thereto. Dr. Day sent in the letter already

published, containing the two charges of having neglected James Wilson, and of taking fees from patients under circumstances calculated to bring discredit on the institute. The first reply of Dr. Pincott stated that he would not constitute himself Dr. Reid's prosecutor; but there was a subsequent one where he stated that he was willing to go on, and enclosing written charges.

Mr. BROWN, before the proceedings went any further, suggested that it would, perhaps, be better if Dr. DAY would state if he considered the present committee an impartial tribunal or not, or intended to take steps to have another constituted. It was no use for them to enter into these charges, and after spending a lot of time in deliberation, he told that they were not an impartial tribunal.

Dr. DAY said that he had already answered that question at their own meeting. He did not object to the committee as a tribunal, so far as he was individually concerned, as he had had the honor to be elected a member of that committee, and had faith in the gentlemen associated with him. He, however, considered that Dr. Pincott would be a very foolish man to go on with his charges before the committee.

The MAYOR pointed out that there were two classes of charges in those preferred. There was one class against the resident surgeon, and the other against the committee. The charges against the resident surgeon had been referred by the subscribers to the committee, but it could not be justified in investigating the charges against itself. The committee was certainly the proper tribunal to investigate the charges against the resident surgeon, as he was responsible to them, and if there was anything wrong it was for them to take steps to have it put right, and if not then the resident surgeon should receive the commendation he deserved from the committee.

Dr. DAY again stated that, so far as he was individually concerned, he was quite willing to go on with his charges.

The Rev. A. J. CAMPBELL considered that they need not refer to Drs. Day and Pincott in this matter. The charges had been remitted by the subscribers to the committee to investigate, and they were entitled to go on with them whether Dr. Pincott recognised them as a tribunal or not. Besides, he did not see that there had been any charge made against the present committee. Any charge that had been made was made against the committee of last year, and the present committee was not responsible for anything they had not done. If there were any charges to be made against the late committee, he maintained that they should have been made at the annual meeting before the annual report was adopted. That report had relieved the

new committee of all responsibility, and they had not so far, he believed, incurred any responsibility at all, and it was for them to go on with the duties sent to them, irrespective of whatever Dr. Pincott might do. If Dr. Pincott refused they could not help it, and must go on without his help. They were all anxious for the proper management of the institution, and it was besides due to Dr. Reid that these charges should be investigated (hear hear) at once. He was entitled to demand an enquiry from them, for Dr. Pincott's statement had gone forth to the world.

After some remarks from Mr. Gillespie and the Rev. Astley Cooper.

Dr. PINCOTT said there was no one more anxious for the proper working of the Institute than he was, and no one more desirous of courting the utmost openness. At the same time he was not singular in the opinion that the committee was scarcely an impartial tribunal. Besides some of the judges had already expressed an opinion, and stated that they believed it would all end in nothing, and that the charges were untrue. It had been proposed to him by a number of subscribers to prepare a memorial to the Secretary calling on him to convene a special meeting of the subscribers, but he found that, although there was no difficulty in obtaining a superabundance of names, that course would be somewhat irregular, as the matter had been referred to the committee. He had certainly been under a misapprehension in this matter, and was of opinion at the time that the matter was referred to an independent committee, but in the heat of debate he must have made a mistake. As, however, the press had been admitted to this meeting, he was quite willing to proceed.

There were some further remarks from various gentlemen, but at last it was decided to go on with the charges, and the Secretary was proceeding to read the written statement sent in by Dr. PINCOTT on the previous day, when

Dr. REID drew attention to the fact that Dr. Pincott had been requested to furnish, in writing, his charges by Tuesday last, in order that they might nail him to the mast, and the exact nature of his charges be understood. The committee had so far felt pity towards him (Dr. Reid) considering his many engagements in conducting such an establishment, and his large private practice that they had given him a week to consider over the charges and prepare his defence. These had already been published in the papers, and Dr. Pincott had admitted that the report in the *Geelong Register* was in every way correct, but these charges the Secretary was about to read were only submitted on the previous day, and he had not had an opportunity of seeing them, so extensive were his engagements, and so great the anxiety connected with the control of such an institute as that. Dr. Pincott

had disregarded the request of the committee, and it was not for him now to come forward with a number of charges not heard of before. If he (Dr. Reid) liked to submit this sort of thing, he could not know what on earth he would be called upon to answer. After some little discussion, Dr. Pincott expressed his determination to go on with the charges as they were contained in the report published in the *Register*, and confine himself to them. He, however, wished to point out one little discrepancy which had crept into the statement of the woman Barnett.

Dr. REID said that a specific statement had been made, and it was not for Dr. Pincott now to attempt to explain it away.

Dr. PINCOTT: I don't want to explain anything. Let the woman be called in. It is not material.

The SECRETARY having read the statement of Mrs. Barnett, as published, she was then called in, and Dr. Pincott again read the statement, and she said it was perfectly correct, excepting that portion referring to the patients' diet being stopped if they complained. She said that she did not state that. All that she said was that there was a woman from Ballarat suffering from dropsy, and when she had her food given her she complained, but was told she must eat that or nothing.

Witness examined by Dr. Reid, said: When I was admitted into the hospital, I was very ill indeed. I know what was the matter with me. I had a miscarriage about a fortnight before. I did not know that I was suffering from inflammation of both lungs. I was very delirious when first admitted. Dr. Reid: You were very delirious, and dreadfully prostrated, and yet you were able to note all the circumstances? You were quite sure I never examined your back, and yet you were so delirious? Are you prepared to state that I did not examine you more than once? Witness: Yes; you examined my back but twice. Dr. Reid: That was the first time you were in the hospital. Witness: I don't know about the first time. I was delirious. Dr. Reid: Is it a fact that I only examined you twice the first time you were in the hospital? Witness: When I was in the first time I was delirious and insensible. Dr. Reid (to Dr. Pincott who was speaking to the witness): Now don't interfere; don't let us have any collusion. Witness: You examined me twice the first time. Dr. Reid: No remedy was applied you say in your statement? Witness: That's quite right. Dr. Reid: And that no notice was taken of you. Witness: Yes, you looked at my back twice. Dr. Reid: And you requested to leave because you felt so well that you were anxious to go home. You were doing so well, eh? Witness: No; I thought my shoulder would recover in time, and I wished to go under proper treatment. Dr. Reid:

You wished to go under the distinguished surgeon we have heard so much of? Witness: I felt I had better go home to my children. I had been up a week, and was much stronger than I am now. I wished to resume my family duties. Dr. Reid: What occurred in the meantime? Witness: Nothing. Dr. Reid: Does it not strike you as being a curious fact that although you were suffering from these sores, and that fell disease, double pneumonia, you were, not through my humble skill, but in consequence of the resources of the hospital, the wine, the stimulants, and the nourishment, able to recover? Witness: I never had any wine. There were some mustard plasters applied to me. When you came back the second time and I saw how bad you were, did I not take you in without a ticket even. Witness: You did. Dr. Reid: And I never examined you—you are prepared to swear that? Witness: I am. Dr. Reid: Were not your sores dressed by my express direction? Witness: I don't know. Dr. Reid: Were you not attended to, and your sores dressed within five minutes of entering the hospital by my express direction? Witness: I don't know. Dr. Reid: You were so delirious you don't recollect that? Witness: I was attended to, but can't say if it was five or ten minutes after entering the hospital. Dr. Reid: But the natural inference from your statement is that you were not attended to for twenty-four hours when you were attended to at once, and by my directions. When you had the pain in your shoulder did you not do anything for it? Examination continued: I never was a rheumatic subject. I had my legs swelled, and the nurse said it was for want of exercise. I am not aware that people's legs who are confined to bed often swell up. I rubbed liniment into my shoulder, and afterwards got some of the convalescent patients to do it. I am not aware that you ordered it particularly. I never had sickness before in my life. Dr. Reid: Then you are well able to criticise hospital treatment. Did you ever see any patient's diet stopped? Witness: No; and I never said I did. Dr. Reid: Then your statement is untrue. Witness: That part is? Dr. Reid: And you never saw visitors in the wards? Witness: No, not to ask for complaints, but I saw some persons with books. Dr. Reid: You saw visitors with books, but no one to ask for complaints during the whole five weeks? Witness: No. Dr. Reid: Had the sores not healed up when you left the house? Witness: No, they had not.

Mr. BARNETT, husband of the last witness, was examined by Dr. Pincett as to the state he found his wife in when she came out of the hospital the second time. He said he found on her two large wounds sufficient to put potatoes in, and her shoulder

was very bad. On the Sunday she was taken back to the hospital, and when she came out again she presented the appearance of a complete mutilated mass. The wounds were still bad, and the shoulder was stiff, and the arm fast down by the side. There was a swelling on the shoulder as large as a good sized potatoe. The back was better, but the flesh would not adhere to the bone, which was exposed, as it is at the present time. On the 13th he called in Dr. Pincott to examine his wife.

Dr. Pincott here called attention to the certificate given by Dr. Reid to the patient stating that she was cured.

Mr. BELCHER asked the witness why he brought his wife back the second time when she was so badly treated?

The witness replied that he had nothing to complain of on the first occasion. The wounds then were only rubbed wounds, and the doctor or nurse might not know of them. He had no complaints to make of her treatment on the first time.

Mrs. BARNETT: No, I had not.

Dr. Pincott intimated that this was all the evidence he would adduce, and Dr. Reid then called

Dr. FORSTER SHAW, who said he had been honorary surgeon of the hospital for nearly eight years, and during that time he and Dr. Reid had been associated together in the treatment of most of the important and severe cases admitted into the institution. Dr. Reid: Is it my custom when going to the Governor's Ball, or any other profane place, to go without making proper arrangements for attention being paid to the patients? Witness: I never heard of your going away without making arrangements with the honorary staff. Even if you were away for a few hours you always tell one or the other of us, and request us to look after the hospital. Dr. Reid: And you think no inducement would be sufficient to make me desert my post at the time I was wanted? Witness: I do not believe you would leave the hospital on any consideration while there was a case of the slightest danger. Examination continued: He remembered the case of Mrs. Barnett when he went round on one occasion. She showed a great difficulty in breathing, and was suffering from double pneumonia. He asked about the case and found that Dr. Reid had prescribed the preliminary treatment such as a dose of house medicine to prepare her for subsequent treatment, and had had a mustard poultice applied. He (Dr. Shaw) immediately obtained the recipe book and there and then ordered the medicine usually applied in the hospital in such cases. He was told that the patient was suffering from puerperal fever, but there was not one symptom of that. Had he been attending the woman he certainly would not have risked her life by a journey to the hospital while she had a home to remain in. There was sufficient

risk in the disease itself, and it was one of those things that would be likely to be made worse by the journey. Dr. Reid: You heard the woman just now retract the whole of her charges with reference to the first time she was in the hospital? Witness: Yes. Dr. Reid: Was not the woman in a very weak and dilapidated condition? Witness: She was. Dr. Reid: And is it not a fact that cases of recovery from double pneumonia after puerperal fever are very rare? Witness: Yes; my only wonder is that the woman recovered at all, bad as she is. Dr. Reid: And do you not think that, considering the bad subject, the woman's weak and dilapidated constitution, I ought to be proud in a humble way of having turned her out alive at all? Witness: I certainly never had any idea of her recovery weak and reduced as she was. In fact I did not expect her to recover at all. Dr. Reid: You have been constantly in the habit of meeting me in consultation? Witness: I have. Dr. Reid: And do you think that it is my habit to neglect the patients? Witness: In your rounds I do not believe you ever pass a single bed without examining the patient, and I must say, I never saw the hospital in the same state of efficiency it now is. Examination continued; I have no reason to believe that the visitors do not visit the institute, and on the contrary I have seldom been in the hospital without seeing visitors there. I have often heard you laughingly say, this patient or the other patient was complaining. Dr. Reid: You see this sentence in this poor unfortunate woman's statement—"God knows I had reason to complain"—(poor unfortunate women generally do write like that)—do you not think that if she had good cause to complain, she had far greater cause to be thankful? Witness: I certainly think she ought to be very thankful that she has life left at all. Dr. Reid: She says here "all the patients have a dread of speaking to the doctor as he is so rough." Do you believe there is any foundation for that? Have you any reason to believe that I am practically rough? Witness: I do not believe that there is the slightest foundation for it, and although you may make a hasty expression to a patient sometimes, they must know nothing is meant by it, for you would return five minutes after and examine them. I never saw that any of the patients were afraid of speaking to you. I am reckoned one of the most irritable men in the profession in Geelong, and when I first became connected with the hospital, it was confidently expected that we would not work long together, and I believe hats were actually bet among the fraternity that we did not agree for six months, and yet here we are now, after eight years, working well together. Dr. Reid: Then you think that although I may be hasty, there is no practical roughness about me? Witness: I am sure there is not.

Dr. Reid: And do you think that I am in the habit of trusting my duties as Resident Surgeon to ignorant nurses? Witness: No, you do not. Dr. Pincott requested the Mayor to ask the witness how many of the Honorary Surgeons had examined Mrs. Barnett. Dr. Reid: Oh, we'll prove that presently. The Rev. A. J. Campbell wished to know if it was Dr. Shaw who first discovered the pneumonia, and if the witness said that the patient had been previously treated for puerperal fever by Dr. Reid. Dr. Shaw replied that he was told that the woman had been sent to the hospital by Dr. Pincott, who said she was suffering from puerperal fever, but when he came to examine her he found that there was not one symptom of that disease, but instead, there was double pneumonia, and Dr. Reid apparently considered the same, for he had given the preparatory treatment for it. Dr. Pincott (to witness): Do you know how many sores were on the woman's shoulder? Witness: I never examined the shoulder, and don't know how many were there.

The Rev. ASTLEY COOPER said there was one question which he desired to ask the witness Barnett, but he forgot to do so. Would the Mayor have him recalled if it was in order? Barnett was then recalled. The Rev. Astley Cooper: Do you recollect on one occasion when I was at your house your wife telling me these complaints against Dr. Reid, and your replying in terms something like these, "Well, my dear, you should not be so hard on Dr. Reid. What has happened might have happened under any circumstances, and under any doctor?" Witness: I did say so. The witness then withdrew. At this stage it was suggested that Dr. Reid had not stated whether he admitted the charge or not. Dr. Reid emphatically denied it, and said it was so untrue that he could not find words to characterise the accusation.

Dr. WALSH, another of the honorary medical officers, of the institution, was then called, and in answer to Dr. Reid, said that he saw this woman, Mrs. Barnett in the hospital, and she was very bad indeed. She was suffering from double pneumonia, but he did not take any particular notice of her, as she was merely pointed out to him as he went round the wards. From his knowledge of Dr. Reid's conduct, he was prepared to say that he never went round the wards in a cavalier manner, and certainly never neglected any important case, and that portion of the charge he had no doubt, was an utter falsehood. An abscess in any joint would make rapid progress. He would consider it a gross neglect for a surgeon to see an abscess on a patient's shoulder and about to burst, and not open it, but stand by and look at it. The inevitable result would be the destruction of the joint, and the youngest medical student would know that. If the abscess was not opened the joint would naturally be destroyed.

Dr. MACKIN, the other honorary medical officer, said that since he had been elected medical officer, he was in the habit of going to the hospital frequently—almost every day. He did not know anything about this case of Mrs. Barnett's, but he quite agreed with the general evidence given by Drs. Shaw and Walsh. He quite agreed that any surgeon who calmly looked on while an abscess* was forming on a joint, was grossly negligent or incapable, and if it was allowed to burst, the result would be that the joint would be destroyed completely, especially in such a case where the patient had a bad constitution, like this poor woman. He had always objected to the Resident Surgeon being allowed private practice. He considered the principle was wrong. The Rev. A. J. Campbell asked the witness if a surgeon discovered a large abscess to-day, and deferred opening it till to-morrow, and in the mean time it burst, would the surgeon be responsible for the loss of the shoulder? Dr. Pincott: If a surgeon did not happen to have his bystery in his pocket, what was he to do? Dr. Shaw: take your penknife—a carving knife, or anything rather than let it remain. Dr. Pincott said it was absurd to attempt to throw the blame on him for deferring to open the abscess for twelve hours. Any surgeon must know that the joint must have been destroyed more than twelve hours before the abscess burst. He appealed to Dr. Mackin to say if it were not so. Dr. Mackin said that he believed that the destruction of the shoulder must have taken place more than twelve hours before the abscess broke. Dr. Pincott asked Dr. Reid if he was aware that the abscess was on the woman's shoulder when she left the hospital. Dr. Reid said it certainly was not there then. Dr. Pincott said he examined the woman on the 13th January, and requested to know when she was discharged from the hospital. The secretary having referred to the books, stated that she was admitted first on the 27th November, and discharged on the 7th December; then re-admitted on the 9th December, and finally discharged on the 11th January, so that two days elapsed between when she was discharged, and when she was examined by Dr. Pincott.

Dr. REID then called the under nurse, stating that the head nurse was too ill to be examined.

Dr. Pincott wished to point out to the committee that this was evidence hardly of an independent character, and should be taken with the greatest reservation. He said he had found extreme difficulty in obtaining corroborative evidence, and he submitted that the evidence of any paid officer, if received at all, should be received with the greatest caution. There was a rule on the books of the Institute that no paid officer should vote at the meetings of subscribers, and he considered that they should

not be allowed to give evidence in such a matter as this.

The MAYOR remarked that the evidence must be taken for what it is worth.

The under nurse was then called in, and examined by Dr. Reid. (She) said she recollected the case of Mrs. Barnett. When she was admitted she had great difficulty in breathing. The nurse, by Dr. Reid's order, applied a large mustard plaster. She was very ill, and delirious for some time. Dr. Reid: She says I neglected her. Is that true? Witness: No, it is not true. You examined her every day, but she was delirious, and did not know it. Dr. Reid: What is my custom in the woman's ward?

Witness: You examine the patients night and morning, at the very least. Dr. Reid: When I go round the ward do I not have either you or the head nurse in company with me? Witness:

We go round with you and take off the patients' clothes for you to examine them. Dr. Reid: Was this done in Mrs. Barnett's case? Witness: Yes, and if she states that she did not receive every attention she states wrongly. Dr. Reid: was I not very particular with the poor woman, in having her turned very often, in order that she might not be too long in one position?

Witness: Yes; you gave the nurse and myself instructions about that. Dr. Reid: On the second occasion what was done when she came? Witness: You examined her on the spot, and she was then put to bed, and poultices applied by your special order. Dr. Reid: She was left until next morning? Witness:

No, and if she says she was twenty-four hours without being examined she is not correct in her statement. Dr. Reid: She says that patients dread to speak to me. Is that correct? Witness: No, doctor; I don't think anyone is afraid of you.

(Laughter.) Dr. Reid: You are not aware of any case where a patient concealed her disease? Witness: No, I never heard of such a case. Dr. Reid: Did you ever hear of me stopping the diet of patients? Witness: No, I don't, but you alter their diet sometimes when they were very ill. Dr. Reid: You mean that I alter from full diet to half-diet, or spoon diet? Witness:

Yes. Dr. Reid: Mrs. Barnett says that during the second time she was in the hospital I only examined her back twice, and never examined her shoulder? Witness: She is not speaking the truth. Dr. Reid: Did I not examine her and superintend the dressing of her wound every morning? Witness: Yes, doctor.

Dr. Reid: And, finding herself so far well, she got up and dressed several times, and I had to send her to bed again to examine her? Witness: Yes; and she was up and dressed at six o'clock that morning. Dr. Pincott; What morning? Witness: The morning she left. Dr. Reid: Was she not frequently complaining of her shoulder, and was it not frequently examined? Witness:

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Yes, you have frequently, when she was up and dressed, ordered the nurses to undress her, that you might examine her. Dr. Reid: You remember the morning she left the hospital? Witness: Yes; I undressed her that morning for you to examine her. She said she felt so well that she was going home. Dr. Reid: And what did I say? Witness: You told her not to go until you had examined her.

Mrs. BARNETT: It's false, every word of it; you never examined my shoulder.

Dr. REID: Was it not by my particular and special order that the lotion was applied to her.

Witness: Yes; it was applied by the nurse first, and afterwards she said she would rub it in herself.

Mrs. BARNETT: Why did I have to ask for them, if you did order it? And why did I have to get a little girl to rub it in myself?

Dr. REID: I made use of the convalescent patients to do it, as I am allowed to do by the rules of the institution.

The Rev. A. J. CAMPBELL to witness: You saw the woman's shoulder the last time she was out? Witness: Yes. Rev. A. J. Campbell: Was there a swelling? Witness: Yes. Rev. A. J. Campbell: What was the size; was it as large as your fist? Witness: Oh, no; I can't exactly say the size, but you could just see there was a swelling.

Dr. REID: The whole of the shoulder presented rather a puffed appearance, did it not? There was no defined swelling? Witness: No; the shoulder was puffed a little.

Mrs. Barnett: My shoulder was so bad that a patient in the next bed said that if Dr. Reid did not soon do something for the stiffness I would get so stiff I would have to be carried out.

The Rev. A. J. CAMPBELL: If complaints are made to the nurses, you are not afraid to tell the doctor, are you? Witness: If any patient complains to me I always tell the doctor, but Mrs. Barnett never spoke to me.

The MATRON of the institution was then examined by Dr. Reid, and said that she remembered Mrs. Barnett being in the institution, and a conversation she had with her on the second occasion she went out. Witness went into the ward, and was surprised to see Mrs. Barnett up and dressed. She asked her if she was sure she was well enough to be up or to leave the hospital, and she said that she was anxious to get home to her family. She had heard there was a man in possession of the goods, and she was very anxious to be home. She even asked witness to allow the boy to go for a cab for her to go home in. She asked her again if she felt well enough to go home, and she said she

felt better, and wished to get home to her family. She did not complain of anything particular, but said she had rheumatism in the arm. (Dr. Pincott—Because Dr. Reid told her that was, what it was.) Witness used to speak to her every morning, and ask her how she was, and she never made any complaints.

Dr. Pincott: Do you remember one night going up into the ward and finding this poor woman making her bed herself, and the nurse sitting on another bed looking on? Witness: Yes, I think I told the nurse once to make the bed. Dr. Pincott: Is it not correct that she has lain for a week on her bed, and never had it made? Witness: No; the beds were made every morning.

The head Nurse, at the special request of the committee, although very unwell, then came in and was examined by Dr. Reid. (Her) evidence was chiefly corroborative of that of the under nurse. She added, however, that the patient had large quantities of brandy, and all sorts of stimulants ordered for her by Dr. Reid; and said it was all nonsense about the doctor not examining her, as he had examined her every day. She had heard the doctor speak hastily, but she did not think anything of that, and the patients were certainly not afraid of him. On one or two occasions since she had been nurse she had heard patients complaining, and she asked them why they did not tell the doctor, or the members of the committee. This only occurred about twice. Before she left, Mrs. Barnett had been up and walking about. (Mrs. Barnett: It's all false.)

The witness, in answer to Dr. Pincott, said she did not remember ever sitting and looking on while the poor woman was making her bed herself. She had often sent some one to make it for her, and had asked her to get up, or let her lift her up, but she would not let her do so. Mrs. Barnett would say she was comfortable, and ask them not to disturb her, and she would have the bed made next day, and so it would go on.

Mr. O'CONNOR, Church of England Chaplain for the Hospital during the last three years, said he was in the habit of visiting the Hospital every day, and sometimes oftener. He recollected Mrs. Barnett, and had seen her often on the two occasions she was in the Hospital. Had frequent conversations with her regarding her case, but she never made the slightest complaint. He should say that it was by no means correct that the doctor was rough to the patients. He had heard him make use of rather hasty expressions on one or two occasions, and he thought that perhaps persons were lacerated by the feeling that the doctor thought they ought not to be there, but no individual case of complaint of either roughness or neglect had ever come under his notice. Of course he had not come there without consideration, and he had no hesitation in saying that the patients

generally were satisfied with the doctor's conduct and treatment. He had had experience of hospitals in England, Ireland, Tasmania, and the Cape, and he was satisfied that the general management of this institute compared favourably with that of any he had ever been in. He always left the hospital highly pleased with the way it was conducted, and with the greatest satisfaction.

In answer to the Rev. A. J. CAMPBELL, Mrs. Barnett said she did not like to complain to this gentleman. She did not know that he was there to receive complaints.

The Rev. Father HOYNE, Catholic chaplain at the hospital for the last six years, said he had been in the habit of visiting the hospital daily and at all hours. He had never heard of a single complaint against the Resident Surgeon, and so far as the Catholic patients were concerned, he had no hesitation in saying the charges of roughness, neglect, and stoppage of diet were perfectly untrue. He had had a good deal of experience in hospitals, and so far as a layman could judge, he must say that none he knew of was better conducted than the Geelong Hospital. As far as he had seen, everything goes on well, and the patients were well attended to, and the gratitude of hundreds had been expressed to him, and, also, through contributions to Mr. Middlemis the Secretary, after they came out. The only complaints ever heard of were one or two about religious matters, and upon their being mentioned, matters were rectified. He never dropped across a case where the Resident Surgeon had neglected his duty.

The SECRETARY, at the request of Dr. Reid, read the following letter from Mr. F. Smith, Church of England chaplain at the hospital for several years—"I held the office of Church of England chaplain to the Geelong Hospital during the years 1863, 1864, and part of 1865. During that time I heard no complaints of any importance relating to Dr. Reid, but received many testimonies from grateful patients to his skill, patience, and kindness. And, without entering into full particulars, facts have come to my knowledge of the doctor's anxiety and attention to dangerous cases during the night, which are known only to the warder and the patients. (Signed) Frederick Smith, Clerk in orders. Duck Ponds, February 4th, 1868.

The MAYOR stated that a number of letters from persons who had been patients, had also been received, testifying to the kindness of Dr. Reid.

Dr. REID intimated that he had no more evidence to bring forward in this case.

It was suggested that Dr. Pincott had better state how he found the woman, and then Dr. Reid could reply on the whole case.

Dr. PINCOTT, in pursuance of this suggestion, said that he first

attended Mrs. Barnett on the 10th November, and found her suffering from a very formidable miscarriage, and puerperal fever had set in. There was also secondary pneumonia in one lung, and altogether the woman was in a very low and miserable condition. Her house was small; she had two children, and little or no convenience. Her husband was certainly in work, but his wages were very small, and he was not able to pay a nurse, so that his wife was left to the tender mercy of the neighbors, the woman who had been there for a bit having gone away. Under these circumstances he considered himself justified in advising her removal to the hospital. Mr. Trear, of Mack's Hotel, gave her a ticket of admission, and she went away to the hospital. He heard nothing more of her for a fortnight, when he met the husband, in the street, and was surprised to find that Mrs. Barnett had returned from the hospital. She, however, returned, and he saw no more of her until the 13th January, when he was again called in, and found her suffering from a low irritative fever with the two sores already mentioned, and this abscess as large as an orange on her shoulder, and nearly bursting. He did not happen to have his pocket case with him, and therefore could not open it then, but said he would call back next morning and do so, but he then found it had burst. He was surprised that it had been attempted to throw an aspersion on him for not opening it then. This was absurd, as any surgeon must know, and it was impossible to show that the twelve hours which elapsed between the time he first saw the abscess and when it burst would have had any effect on the result to the shoulder. There was also two great sloughing ulcers on each hip, and the bone was exposed, and he certainly was astonished to find that the woman had been discharged as cured while she remained in such a sloughing state as described. The reputation of the hospital was at stake, and he felt it to be his duty as a man and a citizen to bring this charge forward. It was due to the hospital, and due to the resident surgeon himself, that such a thing should be investigated.

Dr. REID proceeded to reply. This case, he said, presented two aspects—that of neglect and maltreatment, and roughness to patients, making them afraid to speak. He felt the severity of these charges, and would attempt to answer them as temperately as possible. In rising to reply he had first to invite the attention of the committee to the discrepancies between the statements of Drs. Day and Pincott at the annual meeting, and those they now made. Then they came forth boldly, and he really felt nearly frightened, especially when they took care to shove the reports right under his nose. But now these charges do not appear so very terrible. They have substituted the word "to" for "by," so

that they now appear as the agents of these poor deluded foolish people who had made these charges. In fact to use a familiar example they had found they were unfitted by nature for the character of that noble beast, the lion, and so they had doffed their lion's hide, and "hung a calf's skin on their recreant limbs." The charge of neglect had been amply disposed of by the medical testimony of Dr. Shaw, who was with him in the case. He had been to some party, or some such worldly amusement—not the Governor's Ball—and had requested Dr. Shaw to walk round the wards, and see the cases for him in his absence, and, as was his invariable habit, he had requested the wardsmen to call attention to any cases of importance, show what was doing, and if approved of by the visiting medical officer to continue it. On Dr. Shaw's testimony—and he was willing to put it to the whole of the medical profession—it was evident that double pneumonia had succeeded on that fell disease, puerperal fever, one of the most devastating and deadly diseases that womankind was subject to, and yet the woman had recovered. It certainly was not a case for him to be ashamed of, for, without referring to any limited professional skill he possessed, it was sufficient that by a careful and judicious manipulation of the resources of the institution the poor woman had recovered, however imperfectly. And yet the evidence of this poor, deluded, weak woman, who was suffering from delirium for a week, by her own admission, was to be taken against that of all the officers of the institution and the general testimony of the Church of England and Catholic chaplains. He asked them not to convict him of such serious charges on such testimony as this, and not to believe the evidence of so poor, so weak, and so deluded a creature, against the strong rebutting testimony. He put it to the gentlemen of the committee that if such unchristian conduct really did exist, there would be many cases in corroboration. But he need not inform them that the evidence contradicted the statement in every particular. It contradicted the neglect, contradicted the roughness, and proved that he was particularly attentive, and even admitted the poor woman on the spot as an emergency case, when she returned. On the evidence of the two nurses the statement as to the woman's arms was proved to be untrue, and the accusation that he had delegated his duties to ignorant nurses was shown to be unfounded. And it appeared to be equally a fact that the woman was so well, so comfortable, and so much stronger that she wanted to go home. There was no complaint of half-murder against him until she met with this eminent surgeon, this philanthropist, and this great christian who liked to heal up the differences between everyone and everything. No, she had no idea until then of how she had been

maltreated or neglected, and until she was associated with this benefactor of mankind she never appeared to have the slightest desire to make a complaint. However, she did make that statement and it was blown to the winds. But there was one point he wished to refer to specially. Dr. Pincott, in the first instance, appeared to think the woman was suffering from puerperal fever, but it turned out that it was double pneumonia, and at the last moment she was sent to the hospital, nearly dead. By great care and large expenditure of hospital money, she was rescued from the jaws of death. Of all the diseases women were subject to this puerperal fever was one of the most fatal and most terrible. Abscesses might be formed in a few hours without pain, and before the patient was aware of it. He knew what a tumour was, and had cut out one or two of them, and was it to be supposed that had there been a sign of this on the woman he would not have known it? These things might form in a few hours, and very quickly burst. Dr. Pincott had made a mistake in the woman's case in the first place, and it was evident he knew nothing about it; and, in the second place, he looked on quietly for twenty-four hours. (Dr. Pincott: No.) Well twelve hours then, and allowed the abscess to burst. He said he had not got his instruments, but any surgeon would not have allowed twelve hours to elapse in such a case. Why did he not, as Dr. Shaw suggested, take out his pen-knife, or get a carving knife and open it? And yet after looking quietly on at the formidable and terrible thing forming on the poor woman's shoulder he came there now with a long tale about his surprise that the joint was destroyed. But when this unfortunate woman left the hospital he could say with the greatest confidence that there was not the slightest appearance of any abscess, and he got hold of her arm and worked about so (using the Rev. Astley Cooper's arm to demonstrate). She went home feeling better, and after having called in this eminent surgeon, who quietly allowed the abscess to burst, then he is wonderfully surprised about her joint being destroyed; and then the other eminent surgeon is called in to see it, and he agrees that the most brutal and unfeeling neglect has taken place. No doubt there had been gross neglect. This eminent surgeon who had first bungled the case and then sent the patient to the hospital to have his errors rectified, was mad enough in the second place to allow such a thing as this to go on without attempting to interfere. The destruction of the joint was the result of his gross ignorance and incapacity. He (Dr. Reid) had been accused of roughness of manner. That it was his crime or misfortune to possess an irritable temper, he would neither attempt to deny or palliate. He was perfectly free to admit that he had a

hasty temper, as well as many other human imperfections. But however rough he was he could pass a catheter gently and without pushing it through a man's bladder, and without inflicting injuries that would cause death from peritonitis; he had never poulticed a strangulated hernia for a bubo, and then called in Dr. Pincott to operate when the intestine was mortified; in operating for aneurism he had never tied the ureter instead of the artery, and thus stopped the connection between the kidneys and bladder. With all his roughness he could do this, and could reduce a dislocation of the hip or shoulder as gently as any man, and perhaps that was more than many men with oily tongues could do. If they wanted a good soothing comforting nurse he could refer them to an establishment in Yarra-street; but if they wanted a man who understood his cases, and with nerve to do what he thought was wanted, they must go to the Geelong Hospital. But there was one of these charges made against him his irritable temper would scarcely allow him to reply to. He had been accused of being a thief and a prig. They would excuse these strong remarks, but when he was accused of deserting a responsible position for a paltry £30, he had not the temper to allow him to reply to the lying charge temperately. He had no command of honied words, but he would reply to this charge presently. He would tell those men who sneaked about back stairs and in public-houses trying to pick up anything against a noble institute and at the same time set up for exemplary Christians, that lying and slander, and bearing false witness against one's neighbor, was a far greater sin in the eyes of a just God than a rough manner and an irritable temper. (Cheers.)

MR. W. M'MULLEN said that there was one thing he would like Dr. Pincott to explain. In the statement he had submitted to the subscribers at the annual meeting, Mrs. Barnett was made to assert that the patients were afraid to complain for fear that their diet would be stopped. She now appeared before them personally and told them she had never said anything of the sort. He would like Dr. Pincott to explain how this got into her statement. (Hear, hear)

DR. PINCOTT entered into an explanation. On the morning of his enquiring into her case he said Mrs. Barnett said that there was a woman from Ballarat suffering from dropsy. They had some conversation together about rough usage, and the woman said it would not do to complain, or they would be put on low diet. He may have misunderstood her, but however when the statement was printed Mrs. Barnett at once disclaimed this part of it, and explained what she really did say. He could account for it in no way excepting that in reading over his rough notes to the reporter, as the statement was not fully written out, he had made the mistake. He had no doubt that was how it occurred.

The MAYOR made some statement as to a visit he made to Mrs. Barnett at the express request of Dr. Pincott, who wanted him, as chief magistrate of the town, to take the woman's declaration. However, as the statement included charges of a very serious nature against the Resident Surgeon, and he found the woman sitting up in bed not looking very bad, and certainly not in a dying condition, he refused to do that. But the statement published was made to Dr. Pincott, and read over to Mrs. Barnett before they left.

Some discussion here took place as to whether the committee should adjourn and decide upon this charge, or go on with the others, and arrive at a decision at the termination of the cases. It was at last decided to adopt the last named course.

The next charge was that contained in the statement of a Mrs. Ricketts, from which it appeared that she had been kept waiting for five or six hours with her child with a fractured leg before she could be attended to.

Mrs. RICKETTS was called in, and Dr. Pincott proceeded to examine her, and to read over the statement to her, but, amid loud laughter, she indignantly refused to have anything to do with it, and said she had nothing whatever to complain of. Indeed, she was greatly surprised at the kindness she had received from Dr. Reid, and she there publicly tendered him her thanks for it. If it had been the Queen's child it could not have been served better, and she was far from having any reason to be dissatisfied, for in one month from the time of the accident her child was running about as well as ever. She went away from the hospital, and met this gentleman (Dr. Pincott) and she had been to one or two public houses, and somehow she made the statement to him, but was very sorry for it. She had been always most kindly treated when she came to the hospital, and on the first occasion she certainly had to wait a bit, but they brought her tea and bread and butter (cheers), and she was sitting quite contented amusing her child till the doctor came in. After Dr. Reid attended to her child's leg it never cried again.

In answer to Dr. REID, she said the accident occurred about 3 o'clock. She lived eight miles out of town, and had to come in in a spring cart, but the horse was very slow. The gentleman at the hospital at once sent for Dr. Mackin and Dr. Shaw, as Dr. Reid was away, and at any rate it was quite light when he came. She could not and would not say what the time was, but it was not later than six o'clock, she thought. It would take her an hour, or an hour and a half to come in.

Dr. PINCOTT drew attention to the fact that even according to the woman's statement now, she was kept waiting some time, and it was the principle that was in question.

Dr. SHAW : Yes ; but you said it was five or six hours she was waiting. Gentlemen, here is Dr. Pincott going into hotels, finding patients of the hospital, and running out after them to put any questions that may suit his purpose, and then giving them as the statement of the patients. Sneaking about, asking questions in this manner, is conduct no gentleman would be guilty of. (Cries of "Chair.")

After order had been restored Dr. REID said all he had to say in this case was that he was away from the hospital by the express sanction and consent of the House Committee. He was responsible to them, and he had obtained their sanction and then made arrangements with the honorary medical officers to attend to the institute in his absence.

The next charge was that of maltreatment and neglect of the man Lucas, who had his hip joint put out. Lucas was called in and Dr. Pincott read over the statement to him. He said it was quite correct.

Dr. REID : Well, Lucas, what is it you have to complain of?
 Witness : I don't know doctor. Dr. Reid : You say your leg was reduced with great difficulty, and without pulleys? Witness : Yes. Dr. Reid : Well, what do you want pulleys for? I suppose you would like half-a-dozen men pulling and hauling away at your leg? Don't you think you were cheated out of something because I did not use pulleys? Witness : I don't understand them at all. Dr. Reid : Then why do you complain? I suppose somebody has been telling you I have cheated you out of your proper amount of pain by not using pulleys? Witness : I was told that the use of pulleys would have made it far easier. (Laughter.) Dr. Shaw : There is the bottom of it. Dr. Pincott : Tell them who it was told you so. Was it any medical man. Witness : No, it was not a medical man at all. Dr. Reid : Well I suppose he was better able to judge that I am. Witness : I was told by different parties. Dr. Reid : You are one of those men who would go back from railways to coaches, I suppose. Now is it not a fact you are a little bit crotchety. Witness : Well, doctor, I had no one to look to but you, and of course I expected some little relief. Dr. Reid : And having had your leg put in its place you wanted me to come round and screw it in and out to see if it was all right? Witness : I expected you to come and look at me sometimes. Dr. Reid : And did not I do so? Witness : You used to go round the ward. Dr. Reid : And how long would it take me to go round? Witness : Perhaps an hour : sometimes more, and sometimes less. Dr. Reid : Didn't you expect a great deal of pain in having your leg put right? You are a big, muscular man, you know, and getting near seventy, ain't you? Witness : I am sixty-one, doctor. Dr. Reid : Well, didn't you expect a great deal of pain after such a

severe accident? Witness: I expected some pain. Dr Reid: And wanted me to give you more by hauling you about every day? Witness: I had quite enough pain when it was put in. Dr. Reid: Were you not very grateful to me when you left the hospital? Witness: Yes, doctor, I was grateful. Dr. Reid: And what are you ungrateful for now? No answer. Dr. Reid: Did I not go round and see to the bandages myself every day? Witness: I never had any bandages on. Dr Reid: Oh, come, that will do.

In answer to Mr. Kelly, witness said he saw him (Mr. Kelly) at his bedside once. He would conscientiously say it was not three times.

Dr. STODDART was next called, and said he was one of the visiting committee, and saw the man Lucas in the hospital. He thought that Dr. Reid ought to be proud of having so successfully put the joint in without the pulleys in the way he had done, and so successfully. He ought to be proud, and deservedly so. It would have been a piece of gross malpractice to go and pull the man about after the operation was performed. The less he was manipulated the better. He knew of a great surgeon named Robert Liston, and remembered that when he put a man's hip in in the same way as this was done it was considered a wonderful thing, and he received great credit for having done away with those vile pulleys. Dr. Reid: And if a great authority like Robert Liston could be proud of the operation at one of the principal hospitals of Great Britain, don't you think a humble individual like myself, resident surgeon at the Geelong Hospital, at the antipodes, should be proud of it? Witness: Yes, even more proud; and I think it is a great credit to the hospital that it can be done here. Examination continued: He had had experience in hospital management all his life up to lately, and he was aware that it was a very difficult thing to meet the whims and caprices of all persons. Dr. Reid: And don't you think if there happens to be an opposition doctor sneaking about to pick up anything he can against the Resident Surgeon he can always find a good deal? Witness: Certainly. Among so many cases it is not to be expected that there will not be something to find fault with. But the general management of the Geelong Hospital, I think, would compare with that of any hospital in the world.

Dr. PRICOTT wished Dr. Studdart would state what was the results of the case referred to where Robert Liston operated. In this one it was very different, for here was the man, after a lapse of five months, on his crutches, and likely to remain so up to the time of his death. That did not seem to him to be a feat to be proud of.

The next charge to be enquired into was that of neglect and rough treatment perferred by James Wilson in the statement given by Dr. Day, and already published.

Dr. DAY said he wished to draw attention to the fact that Wilson did not complain of maltreatment on the first time he was in the hospital. He was treated kindly enough on that occasion. The unkindness and neglect took place after his re-admission into the hospital. He regretted to find that for some cause Wilson had not come forward to substantiate his charges. The last time he had seen him was on Monday, the 27th January, and he then told him (Dr. Day) that Sergeant Toohey had been to see him, "but he twigged him," meaning that Toohey had dropped in merely as a friend, but he had twigged his intention. It was for the other side to say what connection there was between Toohey's visit and Wilson's non-appearance. He had done all he could to get the man to come, and had even sent a letter (copy read)

requesting him to be sure and attend. The letter was registered, so there could be no doubt as to his receiving it. There was another matter he wished to mention. At the committee meeting Mr. Kelly had stated that Wilson was an old acquaintance of his, and he had often been to see him, and he always was expressing his gratitude to Dr. Reid. Mr. Kelly seemed to be a particular acquaintance and friend to mankind generally, for it would be remembered Lucas was an old acquaintance of his. The speaker here read a statement signed by Wilson, setting forth that he had never seen Mr. Kelly in the hospital, and said that when he signed that Wilson added, "As God is my judge, I have been telling the truth." He regretted much that Wilson could not be found. He could not understand it, but he would put the statement in for what it was worth.

Dr. REID said that he had done all in his power to procure the attendance of Wilson, as he would show.

Mr. S. V. BUCKLAND, solicitor, was then examined, and said that James Wilson had been office-keeper in their office, but his leg became very bad, and he procured admission into the hospital. Witness gave him a letter to the Resident Surgeon, requesting him as a special favor to pay particular attention to Wilson, and he had every reason to believe that attention was shown. He had seen Wilson frequently after he came out, both the first and second time, and he never made one single word of complaint; and witness was astonished when he saw the statement made by him. The last time he saw him was a few days previously, when he came to get some few shillings allowed to him, and he then asked him how it was that he came to make such a statement after so frequently expressing his gratitude to Dr. Reid? He made some mumbling reply, and went away. After he came out he said it was a most miraculous cure, and he was very well satisfied. He was so far cured that he wished to be reinstated in his employment, but the situation was filled up. He is a very garrulous old man. Witness could not account for his absence, and said he was in the office on the previous day.

WILLIAM DREW, who was for some years head wardsman up stairs, but now quite independent of the institution, was the next witness called, and he said that he had taken a letter to Wilson, for Dr. Reid, praying on him to come to this investigation. At first he would not give an answer, and told witness that he must call again on Monday. Dr. Reid offered to send a cab to bring him up. Had seen him again, and he said "he could not, would not, and should not, come." Had been to his house that day with a conveyance to bring him, but the house was shut. Witness's idea was that he was in the house. The witness, who was head wardsman on both occasions when Wilson was in the hospital, was then examined as to Wilson's statement, and he said it contained some of the biggest lies it was possible to tell. He told witness that before he came into the hospital he had been under Dr. Day, and he had murdered the leg. Dr. Reid ordered him a lotion, and there was soon a great change, and when he left the hospital he seemed proud and happy in the hope of going back to his old employment. On the second occasion when he came, he was the worse for liquor, and witness had seen him once in the interval the worse of liquor. Every day he used to have some complaint, and three times in one week the doctor ordered him a change of diet. Witness never heard the doctor say to Wilson "what the h—— do you want here. Do you ever mean to work any more." He did not believe any of the patients were afraid of the doctor.

The present head wardsman, who was under wardsman when Wilson was in the institution, was next called, and he corroborated the evidence of the last witness as to Wilson's treatment. He said that he heard the doctor ask him when he came in the second time if he was ever going to work again, but did not hear him say the other language attributed to him, or tell

Wilson a dose of poison would do him good. He saw Wilson drunk twice during the four weeks between when he first left and when he was re-admitted into the hospital, and he was drunk when he was re-admitted.

Dr. DAY asked if it was the usual custom to admit patients in a state of intoxication?

Dr. REID said it was unfortunately the case that they had to admit mad people, or people who had taken a dose of strychnine.

Dr. DAY said he was entitled to an answer to his question.

Dr. REID said that patients were frequently admitted while intoxicated.

Mr. CARPENTER, clerk in Mr. Buckland's office, said he had, by Dr. Reid's request, done all he could to get Wilson to attend for the purpose of substantiating his statement. He saw him frequently in the hospital, and he was always very grateful for what had been done for him by Dr. Reid. The last time witness saw him he asked how it was he came to make these statements, and he said that Dr. Day used to attend him before he went into the Hospital, and when he came out he went to see Dr. Day, and he then "got it out" of him. (Dr. Day: I deny that.) Witness asked him if he would attend, and he said that he had three fits lately, and he was afraid of the anxiety which would follow. He appeared very contrite and sorry for making these statements. While in the hospital he told the witness that Dr. Reid had made use of the language reported, but passed it off as a joke.

Mr. VALENTINE GRIFFITH mentioned that one day he saw Wilson passing, his place of business when an acquaintance accosted him with some remark about his being so well. He answered that he was quite cured, and added, "thanks to Dr. Reid. By God, he'd be missed if he left the hospital."

Dr. REID said he would not detain the committee much longer, but there was another charge to be enquired into, and it was that for the sake of L30 he had deserted his post to go to Rokewood, and that in consequence a young woman, named Mary McPhee, had lost her life.

Dr. SHAW said there was not a word of truth in this charge. The girl came into the hospital in a dreadful state, and it was agreed by the medical staff—the four of them in consultation—that there was nothing for her but amputation, but the time for the operation was not fixed, as they were waiting for the mortification to decide itself. The amputation, he again asserted, was never fixed for any day but that upon which it took place, and was never postponed for the convenience of Dr. Reid. The operation was performed, but unfortunately the poor girl sank under it and never recovered. There was not one word of truth in the charge. It was a slanderous lie from beginning to end, wherever it came from.

Dr. PINCOTT: And the coroner held an inquest on the girl after assisting at the operation.

Dr. SHAW: That's another of your lying insinuations. No inquest at all was held. Here is this man who for the last ten years had been sneaking about trying to find something to slander and damage me.

Dr. PINCOTT: What, not hold an inquest on a case of a poor girl gored by a bull, and whose death resulted from the injuries! Then, sir, you neglected your duty.

Dr. SHAW: I was not aware at the time how the injuries were inflicted, or that they were the result of an accident. It was not reported to me, and I knew nothing of it until afterwards.

Dr. REID explained that the girl first came to the institute suffering from the gore of a bull. Amputation was proposed to her, but declined, and at last the leg was healed up, and she left the hospital. Subsequently, and a long time after, owing to her own depraved constitution, it again broke out, and she found that she was compelled to submit to the operation, and came to the hospital for the purpose.

Dr. SHAW : Then, I say that had these facts come under my knowledge, I should not as coroner have deemed it my duty to hold an inquest. Here was death clearly resulting from disease, and what need was there of an inquest? One has to be very careful while they have such gentlemen as these watching every action, and if I had held an inquest the next thing would have been a complaint that I was holding inquests on every trivial little case.

Drs. WALSH and MACKIN were examined, and both stated that the operation was never fixed for any day but that it took place upon.

Drs. DAY and PINCOTT both asked for the case book.

Dr. REID said that he did not keep a case book for females.

Dr. PINCOTT : What! not keep a case book? Why I never heard of such a thing in a hospital yet.

Dr. REID : No; no case book. Wonderful!

Dr. SHAW : There was no case book for females when Dr. Day and Dr. Pincott were connected with the hospital.

Dr. PINCOTT : There was.

Dr. SHAW : There was not, and I defy these gentlemen to prove that there was.

Dr. PINCOTT said he had very satisfactory evidence that the operation was postponed, for the girl's sister, a Highland girl, who was in service at a respectable townsman's, stated positively that she was informed that the operation was to take place on a Sunday evening, and she obtained a holiday in order that she might be with her sister after the operation. She went to the hospital and was informed by the Matron that the operation had been postponed, as Dr. Reid had been called a long way away into the country. Of course she was very much surprised at such proceedings, and so were her employers when she told them of it. He would like the matron to be examined on this point.

The Matron was called, and in answer to Dr. Pincott said that she knew that the girl did call at the hospital one Sunday evening, but she did not know if it was by appointment. She did not tell her that the operation was postponed because Dr. Reid had gone into the country.

Dr. PINCOTT produced a letter which he said was from the employer of the sister, but he was not at liberty to divulge his name at present.

Dr. REID objected to any letter being read, unless the writer's name was given. If anything was to be brought forward, why could not the persons come forward manfully, and state it? (Hear, hear.)

The MAYOR said that certainly if the name was not to be given, the letter could not be read.

Dr. PINCOTT said that if the name was pressed for he would give it. It was Mr. J. G. Carr. (Dr. Reid; Oh! oh!) He then read the letter, which was merely a statement that the girl obtained a holiday for the purpose of attending at the operation on her sister, and that she came back, and said that the operation was put off, because Dr. Reid had gone away up the country.

Some discussion followed about the manner in which the charges had been brought forward, and also relative to the second charge of receiving money from patients preferred by Dr. Day. It appeared that the charge had been made on a statement from a patient that he paid Dr. Reid £1 for a consultation and bought his medicine at Mr. Green's, but it turned out that this was before he received a ticket of admission at all.

Dr. REID proceeded to reply, and said he considered his position one of sacred trust, and when an unfortunate girl came to him ill and in the jaws of death, and looked to him to save her life, and limb, he would be worse than a monster if he deserted his post. Dr. Pincott charged him with deserting his post for a paltry £80, and allowing a poor unfortunate girl to die. £80 might be a very important item in Dr. Pincott's ideas of finance, but he assured

them it was not so in his. In reference to his roughness it had been said that his language was fit for the fore-castle of a ship. Well, it might be, but he could say that whether as a seaman before the mast, demonstrator of anatomy at a college, or resident surgeon at the Geelong Hospital, he had always done his duty, and he hoped he would continue to be able to do so. He had stood on the deck of a ship in the middle of the Atlantic while she was sinking, and he had stuck to the wheel while every one was rushing to the side to jump into the only remaining boat. He had remained at his post to the last, and until the captain came to him and told him it was no use, and to save his life. And was it likely that he would desert his post for a paltry £80 now? He knew of no sum of money that would destroy or palliate the accusing of a guilty conscience. Dr. Day had accused him of using his position as Resident Surgeon of the Geelong Hospital for the purpose of extorting money from poor patients. What could be inferred from that, but that he was a thief and a liar? Yet that charge had been printed, had gone forth to the country people, and had been read by the world. They knew that as Resident Surgeon he had almost unlimited power over the attendants, and would it not be inferred that he had been in the habit of taking tip from the poor distressed sick patients for allowing them wine and medical comforts? In one word, a charge so insulting, so severe, so slanderous, and so entirely untrue, had never been preferred against any medical man. He had neither the temper to go on, nor words to describe his feelings at such a lying and slanderous accusation. All he could do was to say that it was monstrously and vilely untrue. (Applause.)

The committee, after some little deliberation, decided to clear the room in order to consider on their decision. All but members of the committee then left the room, and after some time it was announced that the committee had come to the conclusion that the charges were not substantiated.