

LONG ISLAND COLLEGE HOSPITAL

A Defense of Its Accommodations and a Denial of Charges Against It.

To the Editor of *The New-York Times*:

Having read the letter in your paper of May 1 referring to the mismanagement of the Long Island College Hospital, and particularly attacking the nursing department, I take the liberty of offering a reply to the same.

Having been connected with this hospital for two years, I cannot allow such gross calumnies of an institution which is my Alma Mater to pass without contradiction.

The writer of the letter mentioned above states that there is only one bathroom on the second floor of the hospital. On this floor there is an average of twenty-five patients and there are three bathrooms. Dressings and soiled linens are never put in them. When the dressings are being done, a separate basin is at hand to receive them, they are immediately transferred to a waste pail kept specially for that purpose, and as soon as the operation of "doing dressings" is completed this waste pail is taken by an orderly to the engine room and the contents are burned. The basins are then washed, disinfected, and put in a closet with the other appliances used for surgical dressings.

Again, the writer's friend objected to taking a bath in the hospital bathtub. That only goes to show the want of knowledge among a certain class of people regarding the cleansing properties of an antiseptic, for after each time a bathtub has been used it is scrubbed by a woman who has charge of the bathroom, (under the supervision of the senior nurse,) then rinsed with a solution of carbolic acid.

The food also was unsatisfactory to our fastidious friend. All I can say is, that in our experience we have found that patients who were used to the coarsest and commonest food in their homes are those who complain and find fault with the hospital diet. There is a monotony about all institute diet; even if it is the fat of the land, one grows tired of it; but this is unavoidable in a large institution where system must be maintained. I have been in other hospitals and have heard criticisms on the food by different persons connected with them, and that of the Long Island College Hospital compares favorably with any.

The private rooms and wards of the Long Island College Hospital are spotlessly clean. The floors are swept and washed every day, and if necessary oftener. It is sufficient proof of the cleanliness of all the surroundings to see the immaculate uniforms of the nurses, who administer to the sick. The order and system maintained in the Long Island College Hospital are proverbial, are a wonder to many, and a credit to the Superintendent of the training school.

The majority of the patients pay nothing for the care and treatment they receive; but only the Superintendent knows who pays and who does not, and all receive the same kind attentions. Such a misfortune as a nurse neglecting to fill an order is unknown at the Long Island College Hospital, and patients on milk diet get eight ounces every two or three hours night and day, according to the physician's order. I know that there are thankless patients who grumble and find fault with the treatment they have received, but every hospital has had experiences with such people, for they are always to be found. The law of compensation, however, can here be applied, for I have known and can give the addresses of those who have been patients in the Long Island College Hospital who have said that they did not before know that it was possible to make an illness so comfortable, and if they ever again needed medical treatment they would certainly return again to the Long Island College Hospital.

The statement that filthy and loathsome diseases, typhoid fever, &c., are mixed up in the wards with others less severe is true so far only as regards typhoid, which, as every one knows who is at all instructed in such matters, is not contagious, and that there is absolutely no danger so long as proper precautions are observed. Typhoid is not to my knowledge ever separated in any hospital in this country from other medical cases. It is difficult to comprehend just what the writer means by filthy and loathsome diseases—such do not come under the province of the nurse—unless he means suppurating surgical cases. These, of course, are not found in a medical ward, but are treated separately in what are called surgical wards.

I am glad to be able by the statement of plain and simple facts—which many can affirm—to refute the statements made in the *New-York Times* of May 1. Respectfully yours, A. D.

The New York Times

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