

DR. MCKEE EXONERATED

BILLINGS CHARGES REPEATED

Charges Against Superintendent of the Central Insane Hospital Made by Mr. W. A. Billings, of Durham, as to the Treatment of Patients, Made as He Held by Mr. R. C. Lawrence, of Lumberton, Who Has Taken the Trouble to Thoroughly Investigate the Case.

To the Editor of The Observer:

Some days since I noticed a communication in your paper signed by Mr. W. A. Billings, of Durham, preferring charges against the management of the Central Hospital for the Insane, located at Raleigh, Dr. James McKee being the superintendent in charge. The article was signed as follows: "W. A. Billings, of Durham, as to the Treatment of Patients, Made as He Held by Mr. R. C. Lawrence, of Lumberton, Who Has Taken the Trouble to Thoroughly Investigate the Case."

I have no desire to be a busybody or to intermeddle with affairs which do not concern me. But in this instance I felt that this matter was one of public concern and that the people of our State should know whether or not the charges made against the management of the hospital could be sustained, and hence I felt at liberty to take the matter up, first, for my own information, and secondly, to endeavor to see to it that, if any wrong had been done, the same should be remedied and that apportioned. Dr. McKee says that he has been much pained on account of the complaints made, but that he has such an abhorrence of a controversy in a newspaper that he preferred to suffer the injustice which has been done him rather than go into the matter in the public prints. I think, therefore, I am justified in giving the conclusions which I have reached after a careful and painstaking effort to find the true facts in regard to the matter. This I have tried to do impartially. I am not a partisan for Dr. McKee, nor is this written at his instance, or suggestion, but simply that the public may know what manner of treatment is accorded to the unfortunate committed to the care of our public institutions.

In his communication, Mr. Billings makes four charges: First, of discourtesy to the relatives on the part of the management of the hospital; second, of misrepresentation, in that the relatives were informed that George E. Billings was in the institution and doing well, whereas, as a matter of fact, he had escaped prior to that time; third, that the family were not notified of his escape; fourth, that his family were not notified of his death. I take up these charges in their order.

First, the charge of discourtesy. This charge seems to originate from a letter written by Dr. McKee to Mrs. Billings, the mother of George E. Billings, and from the allegation that the relatives were not permitted to see their kinsman. The facts in this connection seem to be these: Mrs. Billings addressed a letter to one of the nurses employed in the hospital making inquiry in regard to the whereabouts and condition of her son and concluded by threatening an investigation in case a reply was not immediately forthcoming. The nurse turned this letter over to Dr. McKee who replied promptly. I have read this letter carefully and I cannot see how any charge of discourtesy on this account can be sustained. The doctor simply called Mrs. Billings' attention to the fact that the rules did not allow nurses to carry on the official correspondence and that he (Dr. McKee) was the proper person to address all communications upon matters relating to the hospital. Then followed all the information requested by Mrs. Billings in her letter to the nurse.

The other charge of discourtesy, namely that the relatives were refused permission to see their kinsman at the hospital, may have some foundation in fact but, no, Dr. McKee has been unable to discover it and the relatives have felt no assistance in so doing. I am advised that the rules require that all visitors be met by some officer. This officer determines whether or not the visitor be allowed to see the patient. If he thinks proper, and the patient be in proper condition, permission is readily obtained. If refused, and the reason assigned. Upon the matter in question, Dr. McKee questioned every officer at the institution in regard to the matter, and none of them can recall any application to see Mr. Billings at the time complained of, and all state emphatically that permission to see him was not refused to anyone. Mrs. Billings has been invited to visit the hospital and point out to the person referred to. It may be that permission was refused, but if so, Dr. McKee has been unable to discover it, and I do not see how he can be criticized in this behalf until the offender be pointed out so that he be given an opportunity to take action in the premises. Of course there are many employees under his control and direction and it is a matter of impossibility for Dr. McKee to know all that they do. It is only upon complaint that he can ascertain whether or not the employees have been derelict in the performance of their duty. He cannot be expected to imagine any reason why any officer of the institution could have refused the relatives permission to see their kinsman had he been in such condition that he could be seen. If he were not, it will be readily seen that it was the duty of the officer to refuse such permission, no matter how strenuously the relatives might insist. The welfare of the patients is in the hands of the authorities of the institution and they must act as it seems best to them. I feel sure, also, that if permission had been refused, the reason would have been given. In the absence of any proof as to the offender, although abundant opportunity has been given to point such offender out, I must say that this charge seems to be unfounded.

relatives were informed that their kinsman was in the institution when, as a matter of fact, he had escaped prior to that time; Dr. McKee advised me that he has carefully questioned all officers of the institution in regard to this charge, and each of them state that no such information was given to anyone. None of them can recall any visit paid to Mr. George E. Billings after his escape in August, 1905. Mrs. Billings has been invited to visit the hospital and point out to the officer or employee complained of, having failed to do so, I do not see how she or any of the other relatives can attach any blame to the management of the institution. It may be that inefficient employees are employed at the institution, but some time this happens in many other lines of activity, and it is only when the attention of the employer is called to the deficiency that he is able to take action to remedy the faults complained of.

It can do much toward preserving the State from the same From Disgraced Mob Violence. To the Editor of The Observer: Allow me to commend your zeal in the defence of our laws and your strong denunciation of the cowardly mobs which have so recently disgraced our State. The press can do a great deal in stirring up the citizens of our country to a full sense of their duty. Too much cannot be said on the subject of lynching. Our good name and honor will soon be trailing in the dust if our people do not rise up in their might, and in the spirit of our noble State, to put down the law-breakers and mob-followers who, it seems, are growing in number to an alarming extent. Some remedy must be found which will put a stop to lynching, and we have no time to lose in finding it.

Should the laws of mob-law enact another such tragedy as that of Wadesboro or Salisbury, after the issue of that remarkable and commendable letter of our Governor then it will be most certain that our path at some official's door. CITIZEN.

A New Problem and Its Solution.

To the Editor of The Observer: Stop your fuss with your "pig-shoot-hog" conundrum, and let a farmer talk some. When you see a hog clearly become a civilized "Pig" answer: When he wants a job of appointment from the general government and mought prebaps git it by changing his politics, but he knows he is dead sure to git no office as a "Pig" by a vote of the people. FARMER.

MOORESVILLE'S NEW MILL

Two-Thirds of \$100,000 for Cotton Factory Already Subscribed—Work Started on Electric Light Plant—Marriages—Personal and News Notes.

Special to The Observer. Mooreville, Aug. 23.—Subscriptions to stock for the construction of a new cotton mill to be located in the north end of town are being solicited and will total \$100,000. Two-thirds of the required \$100,000 has been subscribed. It is proposed to build a 5,000 spindle mill at present and probably increase later. The project is meeting with great favor.

Mr. M. F. Smart, superintendent of construction for the Carter & Gillespie Electric Company, of Atlanta, is here and has started an electric light plant. The building is now under cover, the big boilers are up, and the foundations are being placed for the engine and dynamo. The poles have been strung up and the electric wire and 250 poles to cover the town and expects to have the system complete and running by the 15th of October.

Mr. R. N. Hackett, Democratic candidate for Congress in this district, will speak here Friday night, August 31st. Speaking will be George E. Billings, head of Howard, Brawley & Co.'s store.

The house of Zeno Anderson, who lives on Main street in the R. H. McNeely home, was burglarized last night, the thief ransacking the premises and carrying away all the provisions in the pantry. Mr. Anderson and his family were away from town for the night. R. A. Christenbury, who was banished from the courts from Iredell county and all adjoining counties for a period of years, has departed for Gastonia, having taken his departure the first of the week. Mr. William Cook, of Gastonia, is here to-day. He is negotiating for an interest in a very profitable business and we may again claim him as a citizen if the deal is consummated.

DAMAGE-SUIT IN UNION

TWO OF UNUSUAL INTEREST

Barton McAteer Brings Action in Superior Court Against Philip Whitley for \$10,000 for Malicious Prosecution. Defendant Makes Some Interesting Admissions on the Stand—Plaintiff in Case of J. W. Powell Against Rev. James W. Little for Defamation of Character Takes Non-Suit—Special to The Observer.

Monroe, Aug. 23.—The first bale of new crop cotton was sold on this market yesterday by Mr. John Arant, of Chesterfield, S. C., Mr. J. E. Stack being the purchaser. The price was ten cents. This is the second bale of this year's crop sold in the State. In Superior Court yesterday the case of Barton McAteer against Philip Whitley for \$10,000 damages, which began the day before was continued. McAteer as suing Whitley for malicious prosecution and false arrest in December, 1904, when Whitley charged McAteer with breaking into his store and the larceny of six bottles of bitters and some money. McAteer was discharged at the hearing before Magistrate Flowe at that time. This was admitted by counsel for the defense in the present case, but they claimed that Whitley had made the charge with good grounds for suspicion. A great deal of time was taken up in the discussion of the medicinal qualities of the bitters. A negro named Crawford put the question to Whitley whether or not he'd made up his mind to go to jail if he'd "done got drunk on 'em." Then the counsel for the plaintiff began to lay great stress on Mr. Whitley's meanness, and drew a number of admissions from that gentleman which certainly show to be far from generous, though possessed of considerable property. He admitted that, on one occasion when a neighbor complained of a negro woman's dog, he agreed if the neighbor would give him some to get the dog away from her he would do so. He went to the negroes, who lived some distance away, and got two cents which she owed him but failed to get the dog. He also admitted that he had compelled a drummer who had found a lot of beer in his store to hand over a coin to him. He acknowledged, too, that he had loaned money to his neighbors at 20 per cent. interest, and had once offered the plaintiff, McAteer, \$250 to stock 400 bushels of corn; but the plaintiff declined because it was too much (corn). The negro Tom Crawford also testified that Whitley secured a mortgage amounting to \$15 from him about the same time that Whitley was making the charge against McAteer, and that he was threatening to make a charge against him for the very same larceny. Crawford said he was not guilty but gave the mortgage to keep out of trouble, Whitley promising him immunity from prosecution and he was a poorigger and Whitley a rich white man.

The jury was still out on this case at 11 o'clock this morning. The case of J. W. Powell against Rev. James W. Little for defamation of character was next on the calendar. The damages asked being placed at \$5,000. Mr. Powell is a licensed preacher in the Baptist denomination and Mr. Little an ordained minister of the same denomination. The alleged defamatory remarks were made by Mr. Little in Waxhaw Baptist church on June 11, 1905. Mr. Little, on that occasion, it is alleged, after preaching a sermon, read from a circular which reflected upon his standing as a minister, and commented on it, saying he had no doubt the circular was "instigated by that man Powell," that Powell was unknown beyond the space that an old hen could scratch in, whereas he (Little) was known in many States and even in London, England.

It was stated that some time prior to Little's making the above remarks, he and Powell were riding in the latter's buggy and Powell said that Little had been making statements about him which he wanted to have taken back. During the conversation that ensued, Powell threw up his hands, crying, "My God! I can't stand it," and Little, thinking he was about to be struck, put out his hand and grasped Powell by the nose, holding on so vigorously that blood came. Mr. Little also stated to the Waxhaw congregation that he had been assaulted by masked men on the public road at night and the breath almost knocked out of him, and he believed that Powell was at the bottom of that, also. Dr. McNamee, of Waxhaw, testified to having heard Mr. Little make the remarks quoted in the church.

When the case was continued to-day, the plaintiff's counsel rested before Mr. Powell testified to the defendant's demurrer to the evidence. The demurrer was sustained and the plaintiff took a non-suit. Thus ended a case that promised rich and racy incidents. A large crowd was in attendance and it was mightily disappointed at the result.

Greensboro Store Robbed.

Special to The Observer. Greensboro, Aug. 23.—A thief entered the store of W. S. Ward, storekeeper here, last night and stole a number of pairs of shoes and a dollar's worth of stamps. This afternoon the police arrested Dovie and Fannie Gibson for the larceny of the shoes. After being in the sweat-box for a few hours one of them confessed. Nearly all of the shoes were recovered. Entrance was effected through a rear window. Once they were in, they helped themselves.

Governor to Speak at Henrietta.

Special to The Observer. Henrietta, Aug. 23.—Gov. R. B. Glenn will address the citizens of Henrietta and vicinity in the open at 11 a. m., September 2.

CURED HAY FEVER AND SUMMER COLD.

A. J. Nusham, Batesville, Indiana, writes: "Last year I suffered for three months with a summer cold so distressing that it interfered with my business, and many of the symptoms of hay fever, and a doctor's treatment failed to cure my case, and I lost several weeks of my time. I used only one bottle of Dr. Foy's Hay Fever and Cold Cures, and I was cured. My wife has since used it, and she is cured, and so is my daughter. R. B. Jordan & Co., success. R. B. Jordan & Co., success. R. B. Jordan & Co., success."

Large Number Projected in Southern States—Week's Loss of New Establishments in Southern States Shows Wide Diversification of Industry.

Special to The Observer. Baltimore, Md., Aug. 23.—Increasing stringency in the ice situation, especially in parts of the country where nature has been depended upon for the main supply, directs attention to the rapid increase in the number of ice-making establishments of ice-making plants in the South where the natural supply has always been comparatively short. A typical undertaking is the closing of a contract by a concern at Selma, Ala., for 10,000 tons of new machinery and building to supersede an old plant which has been found to be unable to meet the demands upon it. The new plant will have a capacity of 10 tons a day, and in conjunction with it will be an up-to-date cold-storage department equipped throughout with the latest methods of refrigerating. Similar undertakings, announced in this week's issue of The Manufacturer's Record are the doubling of a plant of Monroe, La., making the output 200 tons a day, the installation of machinery with a daily capacity of 10 tons at Montpelier, La., the establishment of a 25-ton plant at Harrisonburg, Va., one at Oakland Mills, Md., and one at Annapolis, Md.; cold-storage plants at Durham, N. C., and at Wilmington, N. C., and a complete plant of ice manufacture and cold-storage at Keystone, W. Va. At Williamson, W. Va., a \$100,000 company has been organized for an ice plant, cold-storage facilities, electric lighting and another of the same character at Mineral Wells, Tex.

Electric light plants, either as individual enterprises or under municipal auspices, are being planned for Anniston, Ala., Mobile, Ala., Tallotson, Ga., Covington, Tenn., Watertown, Tenn., Coal Creek, Tenn., Petros, Tenn., Union City, Tenn., Terrell, Tex., Munday, Tex., Fayetteville, W. Va., and in conjunction with it are illustrations of the wide-spread movement in the South for giving towns and cities up-to-date conveniences and facilities. The development of electricity for power goes on apace, the announcements of the week including new plants or additions at Andalusia, Ala., Greenville, Ala., Anniston, Ala., Baltimore, Md., Louisville, Ky., Charleston, S. C. and Jackson, Tenn.

Diversification of sources of power in the South comes with diversification of industries there, typed by the building of a large number of concrete buildings materials at Meridian, Miss., of steel ranges, furnaces, etc., at Sheffield, Ala., of sawed boxes at Memphis, Tenn., of glass at Siler'sville, W. Va., of brick at Chattanooga, Tenn., of twin engine sugar mills, steel castings, etc., at Birmingham, Ala., of street cars at High Point, N. C., of wagons at Hopkinsville, Ky., of saunas, doors and blinds at New Orleans, La., of fertilizer at Charleston, S. C., of shirtwaists at South Norfolk, Va., of paper boxes at Columbus, Ga., of essential oils at Louisville, Ky., of iron pipes at Chattanooga, Tenn., of tobacco at Richmond, Va., of spears at Jonesboro, Ark., and of lime at San Antonio, Tex. With these should be mentioned lead and zinc mining at Black Rock, Ark., railway machine shops at Jacksonville, Fla., gravel and sand dredging at Rome, Ga., gold mining at Dahlonega, Ga., phosphate mining at Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., marble works at Beaumont, Tex., preserving plant at Dallas, Tex., coal mining at Little Rock, Ga., wood-working at Johnson City, Tenn., packing plant at Nacodoches, Tex., garbage reduction plant at Little Rock, Ark., abattoir at Atlanta, Ga., and granite crushing at Faith, N. C.

GIVEN UP TO DIE. B. Spiegel, 124 North Virginia street, Evansville, Ind., writes: "For over five years I was troubled with kidney and bladder affections which caused me much pain and worry. I lost flesh and was all run down, and a year ago had to abandon work entirely. I had three of the best physicians who did me no good and I was practically given up to die. Foley's Kidney and Bladder Remedy was the first bottle that gave me great relief, and after taking the second bottle I was entirely cured."

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