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GET TO THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE.

OVER the hills at the poor house dissension has again broken out among the persons entrusted with the care of the county poor. An atmosphere of trouble has pervaded the institution for many months past. Frequent complaints have been made by the inmates and charges and counter charges have been bandied by the officials. There is no good reason why this state of affairs should not be summarily ended. The trained nurse who has been in charge of the hospital has resigned and another—the third within a year—has been installed in her place. It is doubtful whether this will accomplish anything more than temporary peace. To all appearances the county board has not reached the root of the trouble. The proper course for the board to pursue is to make a rigid investigation so as to fix definitely the responsibility for the discord and then remove the offender. The justice of the complaints made by the inmates should be ascertained and if they have any real grievances they should be remedied at once.

In any public, charitable institution, a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the inmates is inevitable. Many of them are old and querulous, and rules which are absolutely necessary for health and cleanliness are often enforced with difficulty. But it is due to these wards of the county to see that they are comfortably clad, amply provided with nutritious food and housed in clean and wholesome quarters. The sick must have such care and such additional comforts as their condition demands. If the present management of the poor house falls short of these requirements it is the obvious duty of the county board to make an immediate change. The very helplessness of the inmates of the poor house is one of the strongest arguments for unusual care in the selection of those who are to have them in charge.

CLOSING THE EXPOSITION ON SUNDAY.

THOSE who have advocated the closing of the Lewis and Clark fair on Sundays may study with profit the results of that policy in St. Louis, where the public is rigidly excluded from the exposition grounds on the first day of each week. An interesting discussion of the subject appears in a recent issue of the Outlook, and while conditions in St. Louis are very different from those in Portland, the experience of our sister city should afford some valuable suggestions. The article is as follows:

"If the doors of all the buildings in the exposition, except those of art galleries, were closed on Sunday, writes a correspondent, it would take a combination of Richmond Park, Hyde Park and St. James Park, with the National Gallery, Tait Gallery at Chelsea, and the National Portrait Gallery at Whitechapel all thrown in, to make a setting as beautiful and an art gallery as complete as that in Forest Park, where now everything is closed and only the Jefferson guards are in possession. From all this beauty visitors are now rigidly excluded by the clause embodied in the exposition appropriation by act of congress four years ago.

"St. Louis is a wide-open city-wide open on Sunday after the German rather than the American fashion. No whisky is sold in the saloons, or at any rate the front doors of the saloons are all closed. But the beer gardens are all open, and in the neighborhood of the exposition there are two immense beer gardens which combined can entertain from thirty to forty thousand persons between noon and midnight on Sunday. Right next to the largest and most popular of these gardens there is a race track, with races on most Sundays during the exposition season; and in the open country about the exposition grounds there are scores of resorts and attractions which would not be tolerated on the 'Pike.' All the baseball grounds on the outer edge of the city are open on Sunday: so are all the billiard rooms in every part of the city. In the city itself three or four theatres have two performances a day, and down at the levee there are dozens of excursion boats in waiting for Sunday crowds which seek a cool river breeze, combined with opportunities for gambling with professionals of the lowest and most dangerous type. On Sundays all these places are in full blast; while the beautiful grounds out at Forest Park are tightly closed to the public by a high fence.

"Even if the exposition buildings are to be closed, this policy of excluding people from the terraces, the plazas,

the lawns, and the groves of Forest Park, and from the art galleries, carries with it no saving of Sunday labor. Streetcar traffic to the Sunday attractions is as heavy as it is on work days. It is even heavier, for St. Louis' working-class population is at liberty on Sunday and like the visitor from a distance, it is drawn to any attraction which is offered. There is even no saving of work for the restaurant waiters, for visitors must get their meals somewhere. The exposition management is keeping loyalty to the agreement with congress as to Sunday closing—so loyalty, in fact, that on Sundays a fence is built about the hotel within the grounds to keep the 3,000 visitors and the 1,200 help from straying on to the boulevards and avenues of the exposition. But it can scarcely be claimed that the closing movement has been wholly successful as regards the right-keeping of Sunday.

"We suppose that it is now too late to correct the error; it could be corrected, we judge, only by act of congress; but that it is an error from every point of view appears to us almost self-evident, and the fact is worth noting now in order that the country may be saved from similar errors in the future. To shut up by law innocent, educative, and helpful places of recreation on Sunday, and leave doubtful, degrading and positively vicious ones in full operation, and to do this in the name of religion, is to inflict another of those wounds from which religion has so often suffered at the hands of its friends."

MAKING WORKSHOPS SAFE.

AMERICAN manufacturers and mill owners might derive a valuable suggestion from an organization which exists in France, and which has for its object the prevention of accidents among employees. The primary object is to safeguard employers from damage arising from personal injuries to their workmen, and this is accomplished not merely by the ordinary plan of insurance, but by systematic inspections which are designed to prevent the occurrence of accidents. The society was formed in 1880 and has censed to be an experiment, its members pay dues which are graduated according to the number of men employed by each and the nature of the employment; a higher rate being charged where the business is unusually hazardous. Inspectors are sent periodically to the mills and workshops of the members, and it is their duty to report all defects in machinery or other sources of danger, and to see that such defects are remedied. Prizes are also offered by the society to encourage the invention of devices which shall tend to diminish the risk of accidents or which shall improve the hygiene of the workshop. The society has proved a financial success and it has undoubtedly operated as a safeguard for the employees of its members.

TACT IN THE HOME.

MISMATED couples who find that double harness does not always make easy going may not get much satisfaction from the decision rendered in a divorce case by a circuit judge of this county, who holds in substance that mere incompatibility of temper affords no ground for divorce in Oregon, even though accompanied by a considerable degree of friction, and that the aggrieved member of the domestic partnership must do something more toward the maintenance of peace in the household beyond the exhibition of that excellent, but highly exasperating virtue, Christian patience.

"It is probable," said the learned jurist, "that no cause of complaint would have developed had the plaintiff shown that spirit of reasonable concession or exercised the good judgment which should be found in all households."

Theoretically, when conubial storms arise; a display of resignation should act as oil upon the troubled waters, but unfortunately, such is the contrariety of human nature, it frequently serves to make matters worse. When a husband is "real mad," it makes him still madder to see his wife assume the look of a St. Cecilia, with upturned eyes and the air of a Christian martyr. And it is quite an irritating to his better half when the tables are turned and her husband adopts an attitude of salty forbearance, well calculated to arouse the indignation of the most devoted wife. When one has yielded to a petty outbreak of temper it is highly exasperating to be reminded that the partner of his joys is superior to such weakness. A too patient perfection of character may drive the beholder to drink.