

The Daily Herald.

VOL. XI

FREDERICTON, N. B., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1907

NO. 234 233

Ladies' Furnishings
Ready to wear
Garments

E. A. O'BRIEN & CO.

Ladies' and Children's
Winter Coats
At Extra Low Prices

DRESS GOODS. DRESS GOODS

A Big Variety of Newest Dress Materials for
Fall or Winter Wear

Also a Nice Line of Cloths for Ladies' and
Children's Coats.

Rainproof Cloths \$1.35, \$1.50 Per Yard

Ladies' Coats
Ladies' Suits

Children's Coats
Ladies' Skirts

All Good Fitting Garments, Prices Very Low.

We want your trade and will save you
money.

Mail Orders Attended to Promptly.

E. A. O'BRIEN & CO

Agents for Fur and Gloves.

5 per Cent off Your Purchase.

Wall Paper

Our new stock of Wall Paper is now all in. Newest
Patterns Border same price per roll. See ours be-
fore you buy, we can save you money.

BOSTON 5 and 10
Opposite Soldiers' Barracks.

R. G. LEE & Co.

Wednesday, Oct. 2nd

IN STOCK TO-DAY

50,000 Bouquet Cigarettes,

FACTORY PRICES.

Geo. Y. Dibblee,

PLS' DRUGGIST.

OPP. CITY HALL

*Chestnut
says*

"Goodness in COLD CREAM means a pure product
A Cream that is not prone to become rancid. A pleasant
odor that lasts as long as the Cream itself, smoothness
no lumps, no grittiness. All these are characteristics
of our IMPERIAL COLD CREAM. 15 and 25 cents."

"THE QUALITY STORE." 572 Queen Street.

Friendship, Engagement
and Wedding Rings



Beautiful Line of Silverware, Cut Glass, Clocks, &c., suitable for
Wedding Gifts.

F. BLACKMER
Opposite Normal School

HOSPITAL TRUSTEES' REPORT.

Dr. Atherton's Charges Against Matron not Substantiated Al-
though She Committed Indiscreet Acts.

REORGANIZATION OF TRUSTEE BOARD AND MEDICAL STAFF PROMISED FOR NEAR FUTURE.

The trustees of the Victoria Hos-
pital held meetings yesterday after-
noon and evening and unanimously
adopted the committee's report
dealing with the charges preferred by
Dr. Atherton against the matron,
Miss McCallum. As previously fore-
casted in these columns the com-
mittee, while admitting that the
matron has been indiscreet in some
instances, do not feel justified in re-
commending that her resignation be
asked for. The now celebrated anth-
rax case is referred to and the re-
port says the committee are unable
to find wherein any discourtesy was
shown to Dr. Atherton by the trust-
ee board. The most important re-
commendation looking to the better-
ment of the institution is that in
the near future a reorganization of
the medical staff, trustee board and
internal management be undertaken.

Dr. Atherton was present at the
afternoon session and engaged in a
lengthy discussion with the trustees
over the committee's report, a copy
of which had been furnished him.
He was able to point out instances
wherein the facts had been incor-
rectly stated, and was able to in-
duce the committee to make changes
and modifications. As most of the
trustees are close personal friends of
the doctor, the meeting was some-
what informal in character, and
there was some pretty plain talk on
both sides. Chairman Thompson and
Messrs. Allen and Barry are said to
have been particularly outspoken in
expressing their views. They practi-
cally told the doctor in substance
that a man of his prominence in the
medical profession could very well
afford to bury any grievance that he
might have against the hospital man-
agement and take hold earnestly
the trustees in a determined effort to
enhance the usefulness of the insti-
tution.

The conference lasted until six
o'clock when adjournment was made
until eight.
At the evening meeting, which
convened in the telephone office, the
usual routine of business was dis-
posed of. Reports from the secre-
tary and matron, covering a period
of two months, were read and adopt-
ed.

It was announced that Dr. Van-
Wart's term of office as a trustee
had expired and the medical staff
will be asked to recommend another
physician for the vacancy. Dr. Ath-
erton is said to be the next in line,
and his appointment, will of course,
mean his retirement from the medi-
cal staff. As Dr. Atherton's resi-
gnation is now in the hands of the
trustees, this would allow the trust-
ees an opportunity to overcome one
of the difficulties which confronts
them.

It was decided to hold another
meeting of the board this evening at
eight o'clock for the purpose of in-
vestigating a grievance which Dr.
W. H. Irvine has against secretary
Sampson. Dr. Irvine, who is not a
member of the medical staff, lodged
a complaint against the secretary
some weeks ago, but action was de-
ferred until other matters could be
disposed of. It is said that the
doctor accuses the secretary with
having furnished misleading reports
to newspapers of hospital matters
with the object of prejudicing him
(Irvine) in the eyes of the public.
The full text of the committee's
report is as follows:

THE COMMITTEES' REPORT

In dealing with the charges against
the Matron, the trustees have found
themselves much hampered by the
fact that persons said to be familiar
with the facts refused to come for-
ward and testify, and other condi-
tions surrounding the investigation.
While the Board is prepared at any
time to investigate complaints or
charges of employees against the
management, when properly preferred,
the charges of the nurses against the
Matron, accompanied as they were by
the threat of a resignation of the
whole staff in case the board did not
see fit to adopt a particular line of
action, simply could not be considered.
The charges of Dr. Atherton, while
not in fact accompanied by any
threat, were coupled with statements
to individual members of the board,
and to the public press, that unless
he was upheld in the position he had
taken, the result would be his resi-
gnation from the medical staff. This
condition of affairs had the effect of
rendering somewhat more difficult the
action of the trustees in making a
thorough investigation. A finding
against the Matron could not but
leave on the minds of her sympathiz-
ers the impression that the board
had acted at the dictation of the
party preferring the charges, and a
finding in her favor would probably

impress the sympathizers of Dr.
Atherton that their decision had been
influenced by the determination not to
submit to dictation. While the trust-
ees have been to some extent em-
barassed by these considerations,
they believe they have not in any
way been influenced by them, and
that their determination is the un-
biased result of an impartial, careful
and painstaking investigation of all
the facts and circumstances presented
for their consideration, arrived at
without being in any way influenced
as to what criticism their action may
be subject to.

We desire to record our approval
of Dr. Atherton's course in preferring
his charges in a public and formal
manner and asking for an investi-
gation. Charges and insinuations
have been quite freely made against
the management in such a way that
the mind of the public has been pre-
judiced against the Hospital, and the
board has not been given an
opportunity to investigate and deal
with them. When Dr. Atherton took
the proper and manly course of mak-
ing his charges to the proper authori-
ties, and assumed the responsibility
for them, even though they were made
under conditions which to some ex-
tent impaired the effectiveness of the
result.

DR. ATHERTON'S CHARGES.

The substantial charges are—
(1) That the Matron used her in-
fluence to induce the nurses and
other inmates of the Hospital to em-
ploy a particular member of the
staff when they required surgical or
medical aid.

(2) That she talked to patients in
such a way as might tend to shake
their confidence in their attending
physician and induce them to favor
another member of the staff.

(3) That when the Hospital was
full, shifts were made to accommo-
date the patients of one member of
the staff, and no effort was made un-
der like conditions to provide for
patients of other members of the
staff.

The Board having carefully and
diligently considered all the circum-
stances put forward in proof of each
of these charges, finds that in some
of the cases the evidence fell far
short of supporting them; other cases
have been explained in a manner that
should be satisfactory to everybody.
In short, except in three instances to
which we shall refer, the evidence
failed to prove any of the charges.

MATRON WAS INDISCREET.

The instances which we think were
not satisfactory disproved or explain-
ed are—

(1) The conversation of the Matron
with Mr. Thomas O'Leary, a patient
of Dr. Atherton, brought to the hos-
pital to be operated on for appendi-
citis.

(2) The case of a patient sent by
Dr. Weaver during his illness to Dr.
McGrath, and by the latter sent to
the Hospital for treatment.

(3) The statement alleged to have
been made by the Matron to a patient
of Dr. Atherton's in the Hospital, as
to the fee charges by another mem-
ber of the medical staff for operating
for appendicitis.

As to the first case we think the
Matron did not exercise good judg-
ment in expressing to the patient her
opinion on the success of another
surgeon in operating for this particu-
lar trouble, particularly in view of
the existing conditions, and in view
of the fact that Dr. Atherton had on
a previous occasion objected to an
incident of a similar character. The
Matron explained here reasons for
talking as she did to this patient,
and while we acquit her of any de-
sire to reflect upon Dr. Atherton, or
influence his patient in favor of an-
other physician, we cannot commend
her discretion in this instance.

In the second case Dr. McGrath
states that he telephoned the Matron
that he could not attend the patient,
and that he (the patient) wanted Dr.
Harry McNally. If the Matron un-
derstood that he was a patient of
Dr. McNally's and he could at that
time attend, he should have been not-
ified. If Dr. McNally was not avail-
able, one of the attending physi-
cians should have been notified. Here
again the explanations of the Matron
that she summoned Dr. VanWart be-
cause she got the impression that the
person was a patient of Dr. Weaver,
and she knew that Dr. VanWart at-
tended Dr. Weaver's patients in his
absence or inability to attend, does
not impress us as entirely satisfac-
tory, because Dr. Weaver had already
sent the patient to Dr. McGrath.

A PATIENT STATEMENT.

In regard to the third case, the

statement of the patient, made to the
trustees with reference to the con-
versation between himself and the
Matron, although somewhat vague
and uncertain, has left the impression
upon the minds of the trustees that
something of the kind charged by Dr.
Atherton really took place between
one of his patients and the Matron.
It is true that the patient himself
says that he commenced the conver-
sation which brought out the alleged
statement of which complaint is
made. The Matron, on her part, says
that what has been charged could
not have taken place for the very
good reason that she really did not
know the fees charged by any member
of the medical staff for any service or
operation. We do not understand her
to deny specifically the use of the
language attributed to her, but she
does say emphatically that if she did
use the language of which complaint
is made, she certainly did not do so
with the intention of causing an
injury to Dr. Atherton, or advancing
the interests of the surgeon whose
fees were compared with those of Dr.
Atherton. Notwithstanding this
statement of the Matron, which we
have every reason to accept as true,
we cannot refrain from expressing
the opinion that she was, to say the
least, guilty of an indiscretion, but
one that we have every reason to
think is not likely to be repeated.

These are the only instances in
which the evidence can be said in
any sense to have sustained the
charges preferred, and would under
ordinary conditions not have been
considered of sufficient importance to
base a charge upon. After hearing
all that was said in regard to them
we feel that the Matron had no in-
tention of prejudicing Dr. Atherton
in the eyes of his patients, or of
sending a case to any one member to
the prejudice of any other member
of the medical staff. They were simply
cases where the Matron, in the inter-
est of peace and harmony, and to
avoid friction with the medical staff,
did not exercise that good judgment
that might be expected from one of
her experience.

While for the reason previously
stated, the board did not investigate
the charges made by the nurses
against the management, as between
the Matron and the nurses, they were
as incidental as the other charges,
so far as they affected the reputation
and well being of the hospital, fully
and thoroughly investigated, and we
find that they were either greatly
magnified or disproved.

CULINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

That the cooking and house-keeping
might in some respects be improved,
is admitted, but that it was as good
as the circumstances, and the ex-
treme difficulty in getting and re-
taining a proper staff of servants
made it reasonable to expect, is the
opinion of the board. It was admit-
ted by all parties that the food or-
dered and supplied is good and quite
equal to that supplied in hospitals
of a more pretentious character, and
it was conceded by everybody that
the patients, both public and private
received proper care and attention.

CHARGES NOT SUSTAINED.

On the whole the conclusion of the
board is that no case has been made
out against the management of the
hospital which would justify them
in calling for the Matron's resignation,
and that no conditions exist that
do or should justify the withdrawal
of the confidence of any part of the
community from this institution, and
cause them to lose interest in the
good work that it has so success-
fully carried on for upwards of twenty
years.

CHANGES PROMISED.

This board is not blind to the
fact that a portion of the community
is antagonistic to the management of
the hospital, both as respects this
board and the Matron, and they are
convinced that this antagonism has
been engendered and nourished by
parties whose connection with the
hospital should induce them to use
their position and influence to dis-
abuse the public mind of such a
feeling. While there is in our opinion
no good cause for this feeling, it is
undoubtedly true that it exists, and
this board feels that it is its duty,
in the near future, to consider the
subject from the standpoint of a re-
organization of the medical staff, in-
ternal management and trustee
board, with a view to dispelling any
lack of confidence that may exist in
the public mind.

DR. ATHERTON'S CASE.

The board regrets that Dr. Ath-

ton has deemed it necessary to ten-
der his resignation from the medical
staff. They fully appreciate his loss
to the institution from a financial
standpoint, and recognize the good
work he has done for the hospital as
surgeon and physician; and we are
sorry to learn that his expressed in-
tention of resigning is in some mea-
sure influenced by the fact that he
feels that he was treated discourte-
ously by the board in their dealing
with what was known as the anth-
rax case, in that they did not call
upon him for an explanation before
asking the opinion of the medical
staff as to what course ought to be
pursued. The board knows that no
discourtesy was intended and feels
that none was offered. The facts
are that a case of anthrax in the
carbuncular form, the malignant pus-
tules being developed in the pa-
tient's hands, was sent to the hospi-
tal by Dr. Atherton as his private
patient. It was brought to the at-
tention of the board by the visiting
trustee for the month that some of
the other physicians with patients in
the hospital objected to the case be-
ing in the hospital being dangerous
to the health of the other patients.
The board naturally assumed that
as Dr. Atherton put the case in the
hospital and was treating it, he was
in his opinion taking all necessary
and proper precautions to guard
against infection, and we did not
deem it necessary to get his assur-
ance of this. When other members
of the staff stated that they were of
a different opinion, we felt and still
feel that it was our clear duty to
ask the medical staff to advise us
in the matter, and not undertake to
determine a dispute which could only
be dealt with intelligently by medical
men. When we asked the chairman of
the medical staff (of which Dr. Ath-
erton is a member,) to call a special
meeting and determine what action
should be taken, we adopted the only
one (whatever our individual opin-
ions may be) that would satisfy the
other inmates of the hospital and the
general public that their safety
was being properly cared for.

The board would strongly impress
upon the public generally, and more
especially upon the medical staff
the patients, or other intimate
friends, the desirability of bringing
any grievance or complaint to the
notice of the board or the visiting
trustee for the time being, at the
very earliest opportunity afforded
them, believing that such a course
would contribute to the best inter-
ests of the institution, by having
such charges promptly dealt with.

MAY HAVE GOOD RESULTS.

In closing this report the trustees
desire to give expression to the
hope they entertain that the
investigation will be productive of
good results; that it will satisfy
the public mind that, after all, the
interests of the patients of the insti-
tution, and more especially the in-
terests of the poor, have in no way
been prejudicially affected by the dif-
ferences that have existed between
the members of the medical staff and
the nursing staff. It is but natural
to expect that in a small community
such as this, trivial matters between
professional and business men, which
perhaps in a larger community would
pass altogether unnoticed, are given
far more prominence than their im-
portance demands. In the Victoria
Hospital we have an institution that
has done much good and in a large
measure fulfilled the expectation of
its founders, but in order that it may
prove a complete success and per-
form the good work it is capable of
performing, it is essential that it
should at all times be able to de-
pend upon the hearty support and
co-operation of its medical and nurs-
ing staff, as well as the public which
has so generously contributed to its
support in the past.

The above report was unanimously
adopted by the board.

C. A. SAMPSON, F. P. THOMPSON,
Secretary President.

Dates the seventh day of October, A.
D. 1907.

HIS GAME DIDN'T WORK.

Chief Timekeeper of C. N. P. in Jail
on a Serious Charge.

WINNIPEG, Man., Oct. 8.—W. A.
Hunt, chief time-keeper of the Cana-
dian Northern Railway, appeared in
the police court today, charged with
attempting to defraud the company,
and was remanded until the 14th.
Jerome Cathbert and R. Pearce,
who were remanded until Friday, are
also concerned in this case.

It is alleged that one of the em-
ployees of the company came into
the office, stating he has been work-
ing under a conductor on one of the
western lines, and presented his time
and secured his time cheque. This
was later presented to the cashier
and endorsed in the name of Turn-
bull.

The man admitted to the cashier
that his name was not Turnbull, but
presented another man, who claimed
to be Turnbull. This aroused the
cashier's suspicions and the police
were called in, with the result that
the two men, with the time-keeper,
Hunt, were arrested.

Too many indulgent husbands and
fathers allow the indulgence to stop
with themselves.