

a lambing down' that they were heard outside.' Another girl was shut up for a week. On November 2 he received a telephone message that Mrs. Peachy wished to see him on his way to town. He called and she showed him a child lying on the carpet with a bandage round its head. She said it was May Burbury, from the Orphanage. Witness said it was a very bad thing that the child should have been kept from the Orphanage. Mrs. Peachy said the child was crying and would not go back. The child told him that her back was bad before she left for school, but she had to make either six or eight beds before breakfast. She said she had not told the matron, because Mrs. Carpenter never believed them when they said they were not well. They called in the doctor, who lived close by, and a Justice of the Peace was also called in, at the suggestion of witness, so as to see what condition the girl was in. Continuing, Mr. Scott said May Burbury had been thrashed and put to bed till next morning, for not washing one of the boys, and was also called a 'bitch.' Dealing with the two Catholic children, he instanced one Sunday where the matron mimicked the confessional before the other children. He need not comment on that. On another occasion—and she admitted it—Mrs. Carpenter said one of the Catholic girls 'must say grace because she crosses herself upside down.' And instead of calling the two children by their names she called them 'those Catholics,' and they were told off to hear the prayers of the Protestant children. She had taunted Emma Andrews and reflected on her parentage. Gertie Andrews had often been sent to bed after tea, and she had told the two one tale, that of 'Spring-heeled Jack,' which had frightened them almost to death, and told them not to tell the others. A great deal of blame for the trouble was due to the Board and its secretary for not carrying out their duties. At a meeting, the whole of the committee were of opinion that Mrs. Carpenter's services should be dispensed with.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harper, witness said he had been a member of the Board for twelve months. He was present at the enquiry held by the Board into the charges against Mrs. Carpenter. He remembered that at the official enquiry Gertie Andrews said that Mrs. Carpenter was kind, and looked after her well. She said she liked the Orphanage and got everything she wanted. Emma Andrews also said that she liked Mrs. Carpenter. Gladys Wilson said that Mrs. Carpenter never sent her to bed hungry; she always got as much as she could eat.

Mr. Scott interposed that he had never complained that the children did not get enough to eat; it was the quality, not the quantity, that he objected to.

Under further cross-examination by Mr. Harper witness said Sarah Smith had stated that she looked on Mrs. Carpenter as a mother. The result of the enquiry before the Board was a vote of censure on Mrs. Carpenter for using expressions towards the Catholic children. The Board held that there was no proof of any ill-treatment of other children.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lane: Witness said he visited the Orphanage twice while he was a member of the Board. He first heard complaints in June or July, and first mentioned them to the Committee on August 30th, after the chairman had received, through Mrs. Wells, a letter from Mrs. Peachy. The opinion expressed by all the members of the committee on August 30th was that Mrs. Carpenter's services should be dispensed with. The Board decided to hold an enquiry on September 30th. Witness held the private enquiry after the Board had decided to hold its enquiry.

The next witness called was Wm. Wilcox Tanner, M.H.R. He remembered being called to Mrs. Peachy's house in November last. There were Mrs. Peachy, Mr. Scott, a Mr. Mellish, and a reporter. There was a girl present, and she seemed to be faint and in a state of exhaustion amounting almost to collapse. She was lying on the couch, and was being treated with cloths on her head. Dr. Clayton was sent for, but witness left before he arrived.

To Mr. Bishop: He would not like to say that the child looked neglected or uncared for, but she seemed thoroughly ill, and should not have been allowed to reach that state without a doctor being called. She complained of having been ill-treated, and seemed frightened. He should say she was not in a fit condition to have made beds that morning.

Mary Agnes Peachy, 32 Ferry Road, said she had known Mrs. Carpenter for eight years. She had no idea that anything was wrong until after the Orphanage was removed, when a boy named Frankie Hammond, who had only one leg, made charges to her alleging cruelty on the part of the matron. Witness went to the Orphanage and saw the matron hit one boy on both sides of the head, knocking him down. On August 6th she saw Percy Whittle at the Orphanage, sitting in front of the fire. She drew Mrs. Car-

penter's attention to the boy, who was very ill, and could hardly hold his head up. Witness advised a doctor being sent for, but Mrs. Carpenter said she did not want one; she knew as much as the doctor. Witness said some emulsion should be given him then, but Mrs. Carpenter said the Board would not allow it, and she had bought cod-liver oil out of her own money. Mrs. Carpenter's daughter, who was present, called the boy "a sulky little wretch" and a "surly little brute." She supposed he had had the usual bread and dripping. Mrs. Carpenter said he could eat all right. Witness wrote a letter to Mrs. Wells on August 27th concerning the state of the boy, on the return of Mr. Friedlander (chairman of the Board) from Australia. That was before the boy had been taken to the hospital. Three of the children told her that on the Friday before he went to the hospital he was given dry bread for breakfast. When she saw him she did not consider he had proper clothing on. She was present at tea one Sunday. The staff and children were all at one table, and the staff had their bread and butter, jelly, jam-sandwiches, and fruit cake; the children had their bread and dripping, bread and butter, and one piece of cake. The children sometimes went to her and asked for something to eat. Witness had only once seen a child struck, but Mrs. Carpenter told her that she had thrashed children while they were held down.

Continuing after the luncheon adjournment, Mrs. Peachy said Mrs. Carpenter had told her she had turned Eva Bashford out of the old Orphanage, on account of temper witness thought it was. From what she had heard from other children witness believed Ellen Attwood was 'more of a little slave than anything else.' Witness never saw the child, who was about fifteen, sitting down to meals with the other children. She believed she worked in the kitchen. The Christmas before last Mrs. Carpenter told witness she had given the girl 'a — of a time.' The boy Frankie Hammond had complained to witness about being beaten, and also Gertrude and Emma Andrews, two little children. Witness thought the Andrews got 'pretty rough treatment on account of their religion.' The 'silence punishment' was chiefly used in the Orphanage. On one occasion, said witness, Gertrude Andrews told her she 'would rather go into her coffin than go back to the Orphanage.' The children told her that they made all the beds in the morning, and did most of the household work. There was no playroom for the children.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harper, witness said all the complaints she had heard about the Orphanage came from the children. It was within the past six months that the complaints had been made to her.

In reply to Mr. Lane, witness said she had never seen the children in the Orphanage playing or talking together. In regard to the food, 'such as there was there was plenty of it; rather too much perhaps.' It was the quality she objected to.

Replying to Mr. Bishop, witness was sure Mrs. Carpenter had said she had given the girl mentioned 'a — of a time.'

The evidence of Sister Mary, one of the witnesses called by Mr. Lane, was taken next, to enable her to get away for her holiday. Witness stated that when the Orphanage was in Lyttelton she had attended frequently, to teach the children. They had all the appearance of well-kept children, and never made any complaints to her. Their clothes were always comfortable, and they appeared well fed when she visited them on Sundays. She had seen them on weekdays coming from school, and they also looked well-cared-for then.

In reply to Mr. Cassidy, witness said the children had no opportunity of complaining to her when she visited, as they were under discipline. She was not acquainted with the internal arrangements.

Gertie Andrews was then called. She said she was ten years of age, and was five when she went to the Orphanage. At night she had to hear some of the Protestant children say their prayers, but she went to the Catholic church. She had been sent to bed and punished for laughing, and on one occasion she was held down while Mrs. Carpenter beat her with a stick until she screamed. She was punished by being 'put on silence' once, and not allowed to speak at all for a week. That was for talking out loud when she ought not to have been speaking. Ellen Attwood was 'put on silence' for a month, and they were not allowed to speak to her. Two other girls were punished in the same way. She used to get burnt porridge for breakfast, and when she did not eat it, then she had to have it for dinner. They got up at 7.30, and made beds and swept up and dusted before breakfast. They had a bath once a week, but there was nobody there to see whether they washed or not. On one occasion she squealed because another girl kicked her, and Miss McArthur went into the bathroom and hit her on the back with a strap. She had