

wished to see the doctor about the food. Impey then came to the door of No. 1 ward, and told the doctor the complaint of the attendants. I understood they delegated Impey to speak to the doctor about the food. Impey stated the complaint to the doctor. I was present.

10. *By Dr. King.*] I made no statement to you myself about the food before Impey came. I did afterwards.

11. Did you not say, before Impey came up, that you had not been able to take your food for the day, and that it was unfit for human consumption?—No, certainly not.

12. *By Dr. MacGregor.*] Did you say that after Impey came up?—I made a statement something to that effect. After Impey made the complaint, I said to the doctor, "I can corroborate all that he has told you, and, speaking for myself, I have had nothing to-day, and I am now going home to get something to eat." Some further talk took place among the three of us. The doctor asked how it was, if the food had been so bad, that we had not complained before. I replied that we had complained times without number, almost daily, for some months past, to Mr. Stewart. The doctor said, "It has not been reported to me." The doctor said he would then go into the hall to see for himself. He questioned several of the attendants at different tables. Then he addressed the body of attendants and said, "You appear to have some cause to complain, and the discontent seems general. I will do what I can for you." He then left, and I did also.

13. *By Dr. King.*] On this day, when things came to a climax, what were the specific defects at the three meals?—At breakfast porridge was scarcely cooked at all, and the corned beef was half raw.

14. You complained that the porridge was lumpy, but you made no complaint about the beef being uncooked?—I made no complaint, nor did I hear any one else do so.

15. *By Dr. MacGregor.*] At dinner there was some fish and very bad potatoes. There was plenty of bread, but no butter. Cannot say if there was any other vegetable. I did not eat any of the fish. I had on previous occasions, or tried to, at least. I know we have called Mr. Stewart's attention to the fish as not being properly cooked. I do not know that anything was said on this day. I did not examine the fish by tasting, only by looking at it. I remember trying the potatoes.

16. *By Dr. King.*] Originally you told me that when you went to the table, and saw some coarse-looking fish there—apparently either shark or whale, it was coarse enough for either—you went out of the room?—I remember making that statement, but not as you put it. I did not say, "I left the room without trying to make a meal." I have already explained what we had for tea. On that evening in the hall, I heard you ask what other complaints they had to make. I think you met us very fairly, and said you would do what you could for us.

17. Except Watts on three occasions having found a slug, &c., in the cabbage, did any other complain about this?—I think Buckley did. I am not quite sure whether I complained about the dirtiness of the vegetables. I think I did. I remember Buckley once said the brocoli would be more palatable if we had a little sauce with it. I said to Buckley, "I think it frivolous to say such a thing. It would be enough if we got it properly cooked, without sauce." I then went home. Next morning I took breakfast at home. Attendants Marr, Pullar, Clarkson, and others said things were not improved at all at breakfast. The porridge was stopped, as it was not on the diet scale. The doctor had seen fit to withdraw it.

*Dr. King:* Having made inquiries about the complaints, I thought it would be right for one day to let the attendants have the official diet scale, as laid down in the regulations, in order that they might realise the number of extras which they were allowed, porridge being among these. This was done for one day only, except that, I believe, porridge was not given next morning, owing to a misunderstanding. The attendants were informed in the evening of the reason why the diet had been modified for the day.

18. *By Dr. MacGregor.*] The doctor had also issued instructions to keep strictly to the scale in all matters of diet. We were to be allowed one gill of milk per day, instead of the pint we had been used to. This is only what the other attendants mentioned above told me. At dinner, Mr. Stewart said, "The doctor intends to keep you strictly to the scale, and not one iota will you get over the scale." That evening I was at home after the day's work, but was coming back and met Perry. He had been sent for me. He said there had been a meeting of attendants summoned by the doctor about the complaints, and he had sent him for me. I asked what had happened, and he said he did not know. I met Stewart, who told me to go into the reading-room, and the doctor would come soon. At the meeting something happened between the doctor and Impey. When the doctor saw me he questioned me. This was the occasion when I said to the doctor that the fish was coarse enough for shark or whale. The doctor agrees it was then these words were used. In the reading-room, at this meeting called by the doctor, Impey stated that sometimes we got the remains of joints served up, that were far superior to what we usually got.

19. *By Dr. King.*] It was I at that time called attention to this?—I admit that. The doctor said he had made inquiries and found that there was no foundation in the complaint about these joints. That it took a whole sheep, and they got the joints in rotation; that the clerk stated this was the case, and that he believed the clerk in preference to the attendants.

20. Can you recall the precise circumstances which led to my saying which I believed?—I cannot.

21. Can you recall my saying that, as the clerk's statement was definite, and as the attendants had made other complaints, which, to my own knowledge, were without proper foundation, in my opinion the clerk was right, or words to that effect?—Yes; I remember something like that.

22. *By Dr. MacGregor.*] After the doctor said he preferred to believe Linton, two or three, Buckley especially, got up in an excited manner and said, "At that rate, doctor, we are all liars." Impey said it was very unfair to treat us so—to take one man's word in preference to such a number. Tattersall spoke to the same effect. Dr. King replied that we were making a grave charge against the clerk, which not only implied neglect of duty, but made him out to be a liar and a thief. I understood Dr. King to use those words. Mr. Linton, replying to the doctor at the meeting,