
MISS BILLINGHURST

Badly Injured by Brutal Gaol Methods.

Our Special Commissioner refers to the treatment of Miss Billinghamurst in gaol. He says :—

Miss Billinghamurst, the well-known Suffragist cripple, recently released from Holloway, is said to be in a very poorly condition indeed as the result of the treatment ordered by Mr. McKenna.

I want particularly to draw attention to one incident in this treatment. This is nothing less than the deliberate breaking of one of her teeth with an iron instrument in order that a tube might be forced into her mouth against her will.

As I understand, one of her nostrils was so torn by the tube that the doctor dare not again attempt to force a tube into it, and painful attempts on the other nostril failed through some malformation. The doctor then fetched an iron instrument and deliberately broke a tooth in order that Mr. McKenna's orders might be carried out.

This seems to me an outrage beyond anything else that the present Anti-Suffrage Home Secretary has tried, and I can hardly imagine that even our present supine House of Commons would tolerate this if it were clearly understood. I should be glad to hear from Miss Billinghamurst's relatives whether any Members have been approached.

In any case, it seems to me that if there is no kind of regard for personal liberty and dignity left in the House, the ex-prisoner should have a good case for action either against the Home Secretary, under whose orders this outrage was committed, or against his compliant tool, the prison doctor.