

ACCELERATED COMA.

THE inquest at the Marylebone Infirmary, which is reported in another column, carries with it lessons of the greatest importance to Nurses. Dr. J. A. Lunn's statement that "death had resulted from the effects of coma when suffering from Bright's disease of the kidneys, accelerated by an ordinary dose of morphia," will doubtless cause considerable amusement in professional circles, although it had the evidently desired effect upon the minds of the innocent jurymen. We do not propose to touch the medical question, although it is somewhat strange that it was not known that the patient was suffering from Bright's disease—and it would, we consider, have been more straightforward to have stated that the patient's "coma" was caused by, and that she died in fact from, morphia poisoning. But what we desire to impress upon Nurses is that there are two golden rules which they should never neglect in administering poisons. First, "Never give a patient a dose of a poison unless it is prescribed in writing by the doctor"; second, "If possible, always measure and administer the dose in the presence of a third person." It is the rule in well-arranged Chemists' shops, always to have the dispensing of poisons checked by a colleague of the dispenser, and if Nurses adopted the same principle, as a matter of routine, it would doubtless go far to prevent both mistakes and unfounded accusations.

THE TYRANT THERMOMETER.

WE commented, last week, upon the wonderful ways of Worcester Infirmary, and especially on the manner in which the medical staff permit the Matron to usurp their functions, and treat cases of illness by the light of her own understanding—or the want thereof. A correspondent has since sent us a copy of the *Birmingham Daily Post*, by whose report of the case, it appears that Mr. FLETCHER, House-Surgeon at the Worcester Infirmary, was called as a witness by the Matron. It will be remembered that the Matron permitted the Nurse to keep at work in the wards, with a temperature of 103° Fahr., and a sore throat; that no doctor was asked to see the Nurse and determine whether or not she was suffering from scarlet fever—as with such symptoms she clearly might have been; that the Matron made the Nurse take *three ounces* of Mist. Alba., and then, with great violence, the Nurse being held by another person, the Matron forced her mouth open, and roughly pushed a brush down her throat twice. All this was detailed in Court, and then Mr. GEORGE RORY JOHN FLETCHER, being sworn as a witness, "said the treatment prescribed by Miss McLELLAND was proper. He did not think there was any reason to send for him if the plaintiff's temperature was 103°—a doctor could not be the slave of a thermometer." Medical men, we feel confident, will regret that Mr. GEORGE RORY JOHN FLETCHER's contempt of a thermometer is precisely equalled by his freedom from the dictates of chivalry.

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SHAM NURSES.

A LETTER, which we publish elsewhere, calls attention to a branch of the subject of Nursing frauds which deserves more attention than has hitherto been devoted to it. For years, we have exposed in these columns the dangers, to the public, caused by the thousands of ignorant women who now act as attendants upon the sick, and, for this reason, have most strongly advocated the institution of Registration of Nurses. There are certain Nurses, well trained women, who, from lack of general education, have failed to comprehend the benefit of such a system to themselves and to their profession. To such we would point to our correspondent's story as a striking object lesson of the impossibility of protecting Trained Nurses at present from the disgrace which can be brought upon their uniform by any disreputable person who chooses to don it. To our knowledge, a large number of domestic servants now adorn themselves in the garb of Nurses, when they take their walks abroad, and the flighty bar-maid appearance of many of these pseudo-Nurses in the streets of our great towns is rapidly bringing the profession into thoroughly undeserved disrepute. The remedy is in Nurses' hands, and unless they desire to be classed in the public mind with the riff-raff, who adopt their costume, the sooner they individually bestir themselves the better. Let them Register themselves, and persuade other Trained Nurses to do so. Let them leave aprons and chatelaines at home—they are of no use in the streets. Let them remember that their cloaks are designed to cover their dresses, not to float behind them in the wind; and above all, let them join the R.B.N.A. if they can, and wear its badge on their cloaks, and the public will then have no difficulty in distinguishing them from Sham Nurses.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL AGAIN.

Once again, has our prophecy been fulfilled. Our always interesting contemporary, the *Evening News and Post*, has commenced a series of excellently written articles on Hospital Reform, and, of course—as one of its first illustrations as to the need of improvements—takes up the London Hospital Scandals. The Committee of that Institution—ostrich-like—appear to believe that their mismanagement is unknown beyond a narrow circle, but we know that the light is spreading, and that far and wide the public feeling of dissatisfaction at the lethargy and ignorance of the Committee of the London Hospital is extending amongst all classes—their lethargy in carrying out the improvements which the Lords' Select Committee have recommended as necessary—their crass ignorance of scandals which have occurred under their noses, which are notorious throughout Whitechapel, and which have aroused the ridicule of some, and the indignation of many others interested in this magnificent Charity. In another column we quote, in full, the comments of our contemporary, and we earnestly hope that it will devote its influential efforts to bringing about reforms, at any rate, in the London Hospital.

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[next page](#)